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NORTHERN CHRONICLE

(APRIL 25, 1688.)

[Miscellaneous Clippings re Canada, 1886-1897.]

THEY manage a refractory meeting in Toronto in a style that I recommend to politicians at home. About a fortnight ago, says the *Newcastle Chronicle*, the Gaelic Society in the Canadian city held a meeting to make arrangements for giving a concert for the benefit of the crofters. A dispute arose as to who had invited certain Irishmen to the concert, one member shouting, "I hope to heaven we do not ask assistance from the Land League." Then there was a row. A number of members jumped to the floor to speak, when the able bagpiper of the Society unwound his pipes, and, marching backward and forward before the platform, drowned further discussion. In face of such opposition, argument was useless, and the meeting had to disperse. The bagpipes are plainly as good as the Closure.

The piper was Charles Munro.

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CALEDONIA TO VANCOUVER.

Before proceeding with my narrative, it seems to me desirable, if not necessary, to recite certain facts, mainly historical and geographical, regarding Canada which people in the old country are apt to forget or do not know, but which, in dealing with the Dominion, should be borne in remembrance. Irreconcilable differences of opinion exist between authorities as to the European who is entitled to claim the honour of first setting foot on Canadian soil. It is asserted that in 1497 two Portuguese navigators, John and Sebastian Cabot, father and son, commissioned by Henry VII. of England, in attempting to find a north-west passage to India, discovered the island and territory now known as Newfoundland and Labrador, of which they took possession in name of England. The younger Cabot sailed in the following year as far north as Hudson's Strait, and southward to Chesapeake Bay, landing at several places, and partially exploring the country he had found. It was upon these discoveries that Great Britain based the claim she afterwards so successfully asserted to the greater part of North America. Several voyages were subsequently undertaken by representatives of other nations, who discovered land farther to the south, but none of them had reference to the settlement of the newly-discovered countries. Columbus did not reach the mainland till 1498, while Amerigo Vespucci, from whom the continent took its name, only effected a landing a year later. The first attempt in the direction of settlement was made by France, Francis I. having resolved to claim a share of the boundless continent which was filling the coffers of his rivals. "Shall the kings of England, Spain, and Portugal," he exclaimed, "divide an America between them? I would like to see the clause in Father Adam's will bequeathing that vast inheritance to them." Verrazzani, a Florentine, acting on behalf of the French monarch, accordingly, in 1524, ranged the coast from Florida to Labrador, and with calm assurance annexed the entire region previously explored by the Cabots, designing it "New France." The rival claims arising from these explorations were the chief grounds of the long and bloody conflict which later on was waged between Great Britain and France for the possession of the extensive territories beyond the seas, and for the maritime supremacy which went along with them. It is not necessary to detail the steps taken by Cartier, Champlain, and others to colonise the pathless forests of New France, or to recall the particulars of the wars which secured for England the supremacy of North America. Suffice it to say (1) that the result of the War of the Spanish Succession, so far as England was concerned, was the surrender to her, under the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, of the whole of North America from what is now known as Nova Scotia to Hudson's Bay; and (2) that by the victories gained by Wolfe at Quebec in 1759, and by Amherst, Haviland, and Murray at Montreal in the following year, the English conquest of Canada became complete; the possession of the entire continent, with the exception of two small rock-bound and fog-capped islands on the Newfoundland coast, being confirmed to her by the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

It has been with truth said that her conquest by Great Britain was the most fortunate event in the history of Canada, seeing that the institutions of the middle ages were exchanged for those of modern civilisation, and that it secured to her people local self-government, in place of abject submission to a foreign Power and a corrupt Court. By an Act of the British Parliament passed in 1774, the boundaries of the Province—which extended from Labrador to the Miasissippi, from the Ohio to the watershed of Hudson's Bay—were defined; the right of the French portion of the population to the observance of the Roman Catholic religion without civil disability was established; the tithes were confirmed to the clergy of that religion, all Protestants being, however, exempt from payment; the French civil code was restored, the English law established in all criminal cases; and supreme authority was vested in the Governor and a Council of from seventeen to twenty-three in number, nominated by the Crown. This Act created great dissatisfaction among the minority, consisting of the English-speaking part of the population. In 1783, by the Treaty of Peace signed at Versailles after the close of the War of Independence, Canada was dispossessed of a large and fertile part of her territory lying between the Mississippi and the Ohio. In 1791 what remained was divided into two Provinces, afterwards known as Upper and Lower Canada, or Canada East and Canada West. Each Province received a separate Legislature, consisting of a Legislative Council appointed by the Crown, a Legislative Assembly (elected for four years) appointed by the people), and a Governor appointed by the Crown, and responsible only to it. The Council soon became very unpopular. During the years 1812-14 the young nation had to defend its 1500 miles of frontier, in consequence of the United States having declared war against Britain. She had less than 6000 soldiers. Her entire population of the two Provinces was less than 300,000, while that of her hostile neighbour was eight millions. The Canadians, however, rose as one man in support of the Imperial Government, and throughout two years of continuous struggle greatly distinguished themselves, the advantage at the close of the war resting with them. The descendants of those who took part in the victories of Queenston heights and Chateauguay delight to recall the fact, and they, in common with Canadians in general, regard these victories with much the same feeling of pride as that with which Britishers recall the memories of Waterloo.

For years following the war an intermittent struggle for responsible government went on in the Provinces, the breach between the two factions of the Legislature widening as time went on. Finally, by way of solving the difficulties which had arisen, the home Government determined on the union of the two Provinces. The provisional Legislatures passed resolutions favourable to the scheme, and in 1841 Upper and Lower Canada were peacefully united under one Administration, and responsible government was firmly established. Thereafter there was one Legislative Council and one Legislative Assembly, in which each Province was equally represented. The Council, consisting of twenty-five members, was appointed by the Crown; and the Assembly, consisting of eighty-four members, elected by the people. The Cabinet consisted of eight members, and was responsible to the Legislature. It was presided over by the Governor-General, who was elected by the Crown. The control of all public revenue was vested in the representatives of the people. At this period the population of both Upper and Lower Canada was upon almost an equal footing—the latter numbering 768,334, and the former 765,797. The united

Parliament at first met in Kingston, thereafter in Montreal, and subsequently in Toronto, finally in Ottawa, the capital selected by Queen Victoria, to whom, in the end, the matter was referred, the representatives of the Provinces being themselves unable to agree. So long as the population of the sister Provinces remained on a par, no question regarding the representation of the people arose; but as time went on, Upper Canada began to outstrip the lower Province in numbers. Hence, not unnaturally, the majority began to clamour for readjustment, holding that equal representation on the part of both Provinces was no longer equitable. The Lower Province, the great majority of whose population was French, resisted the demands of the Upper or almost purely English Province. A crisis threatening the integrity of the Union arose. Administration followed administration in close succession, and the affairs of Canada were almost at a standstill, and legislation for a time became well nigh impossible.

Fortunately, at this juncture the idea of confederating the various Provinces in British North America was suggested. It was not a new idea, for the advisability of such a scheme was considered early in the century. The provincial legislative assemblies took up the matter with some degree of vigour, Nova Scotia leading. Delegates from the various Provinces met in conference on several occasions, the result being that, by Royal Proclamation dated 22nd May, 1867, following upon an Act of the Imperial Parliament passed on 29th March preceding, the four Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia became the Dominion of Canada. In 1870 Rupert's Land and the North-West Territory were added to the Dominion, and Manitoba was created one of its Provinces. In 1871 British Columbia, and in 1872 Prince Edward Island, were admitted into the Union, which now embraces all the British possessions in North America, with the exception of Newfoundland and its dependency, Labrador. Their almost immediate absorption in the Union was, until the recent publication of ex-President Cleveland's retaliatory message, regarded as probable. Now, however, for the present at anyrate, all negotiations tending towards that end have ceased. The existing Dominion Constitution is a reflex of the British Constitution. The Sovereign is represented by a Crown-appointed Governor-General, who holds himself aloof from all parties, and governs through constitutional advisers who represent the majority in the House of Commons. The Queen's Privy Council for Canada, the members of which must belong to the Dominion Parliament, forms the Ministry, and it remains in office only so long as it retains the confidence of that majority in the House of Commons. The Governor-General has, however, power to dismiss the Ministry. The Parliament consists of the Governor, an Upper House, styled the Senate; and a Lower House, styled the House of Commons. The Senate consists of 78 life members appointed by the Governor in Council, and elected in certain proportions from each Province. The House of Commons consists of 214 members elected for five years (should the House not be sooner dissolved) on the basis of population for the older Provinces, it being enacted, however, that Quebec shall always have 65 members, and the other Provinces proportionally to the population according to the census taken every ten years, the last having been taken in 1881. The latest re-arrangement gave to the various Provinces the following representatives, viz.:—

Ontario	92	Prince Edward Island	6
Quebec	65	Manitoba	5
Nova Scotia	21	British Columbia	6
New Brunswick	19		

The franchise is so wide that it must reach nearly all householders. Non-householders whose earnings, or incomes from investments, amount to at least 300 dols. (£60) a year, and sons of owners of real property of sufficient value to qualify both father and son, or in the event of their fathers' death, sons who continue to reside for a year with their mothers, are also entitled to votes.

The Government has power to make laws for the peace and good government of the whole Dominion, as also to regulate—

1. Public debt and property.
2. Trade and commerce.
3. Indirect taxation.
4. Borrowing on the public debt.
5. The postal service.
6. The census and statistics.
7. Militia and defence.
8. Lighthouse and coast service.
9. Navigation and shipping.
10. Quarantine.
11. Fisheries.
12. Currency and banking.
13. Weights and measures.
14. Bankruptcy and insolvency.
15. Naturalisation.
16. Marriage and divorce.
17. Penitentiaries.
18. Criminal Law, including procedure in criminal cases.
19. Appointment of Judges.

The Supreme Government appoints a Lieutenant-Governor for each Province whose salary is paid by the Dominion Parliament. Each Province has its own elective assembly and administration, with full power to regulate its own local affairs as set forth in the Confederation Act, to dispose of its revenues, and enact such laws as it may deem best for its own internal welfare, provided always such laws do not clash with the legislation of the Federal Parliament, or attempt to deal with the matters before enumerated, with which the Dominion Government and Parliament can alone deal. The Provinces appoint all officers, except Judges, required for the administration of justice. They also regulate:—1st, education; 2nd, asylum, hospitals, charities, and eleemosynary institutions; 3rd, common jails, prisons and reformatories; 4th, municipal institutions; 5th, shop, tavern, and other licences; 6th, local works; 7th, solemnisation of marriage; 8th, property and civil rights; 9th, administration of justice, so far as the constitution, maintenance, and organisation of provincial courts of both civil and criminal jurisdiction, and the appointment of Magistrates or justices of the peace are concerned. The Provinces have no power to organise and maintain a provincial military force, being in this respect unlike the United States; nor have they power of final legislation, the Dominion Government possessing, under the constitution, the power of veto. Municipal institutions have, excepting in Prince Edward Island, been adopted in all the Provinces. Each village of not less than 750 inhabitants, each town of not less than 2000 inhabitants, and each township has its council elected annually

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by the ratepayers. The whole have, by their reeves and depnty-reevea, a representation in the County Council, which meets periodically. Business similar to that transacted in Scotland by Commissioners of Supply, Town Councils, Road Trustees, Commissioners under the Lindsay Act, Parochial and School Boards, is attended to by the various provincial public bodies, the only difference between the local government of the two countries apparently being that the County Boards are in the Dominion composed of Representatives from the various subsidiary councils. There is, of course, the further difference between the two countries, that each Province in Canada has a separate local Parliament, while we have not. Canada may certainly claim to be pre-eminently the land of self-government.

Many people in the Dominion assert that the system answers well, while others as strongly say they are over-governed. The latter class lately found an exponent of their views in the per on of an Irish representative, who, at a recent meeting of his particular municipal body, exclaimed, as he spat on his hands and grasped his bit of oak—"Hang me, if the tyranny of this Council isn't worse than the penal laws that drove us from ould Oirland." The great majority of the English-speaking portion of Quebec would gladly welcome the an pression of their Provincial Parliament. The Premier is Mr Mercier, but the man who pulls the wires is the Roman Catholic Vicar-General. The members of both the Dominion and Provincial Parliaments are paid, the former 1000 dols. and the latter from 600 to 800 dols. a-year. This system has produced a class of professional politicians to whom a seat in Parliament cannot fail to be useful. The continuance of the Provincial Parliaments was made a *sine qua non* condition of the agreement to federation. In a new country, only a fractional portion of which is as yet occupied, Provincial Parliaments may be necessary, especially in view of its certain future development and greatly increased population. In citing the Dominion of Canada as an example of a country flourishing under Home Rule, the advocates of that system of government never advert to the colossal proportions of her Provinces, which justify, if they do not actually necessitate, the existence of the system. Why, Canada, excluding Newfoundland and Labrador and the areas covered by the Great Lakes, is almost as large as Europe, including Russia, the following being the figures :—

Dominion of Canada	3,470 392 square miles.
Europe	3,750,000 do.

Contrast these figures with the areas of Great Britain and Ireland—England and Wales, 58,186 ; Scotland, 29,820 ; Ireland, 32,531. It is not easy to convey any adequate idea of the vastness of the Dominion. Forty countries of the size of England, Wales, and Ireland could be cut out of Canada. New South Wales contains 309,175 square miles, and is larger by 162 square miles than France, Continental Italy, and Sicily. Canada would make eleven countries of the size of New South Wales. There are in extent three British Indias in Canada, and still enough left over to make a Queensland and a Victoria. The German Empire and fifteen additional countries of the same size could be carved out of the Dominion.

Then think for a moment of her great lakes—

Superior	420 miles long	by	170	miles broad
Michigan	320 ,,	,,	70	,,
Huron	280 ,,	,,	105	,,
Erie	240 ,,	,,	57	,,
Ontario	180 ,,	,,	55	,,

and contrast them with Locha Ness, Tay, Lomond, and the others which, in our insular conceit, we sometimes think of considerable extent.

In the matter of rivers, those of the British Isles make a poor show alongside of Canada's mighty streams—

The St Lawrence	1500 miles long
The Sasketchewan and Nelson	1500 ,,
The Mackenzie	1200 ,,
The Fraser	450 ,,

while the utmost extent of the Tay is 125, the Thames 215, and the Shannon 224 miles.

Mount Hooker, the loftiest mountain in the Dominion, is some 16,760 feet above sea level. There are several others in the "Rocky" range of not very inferior height. Several of the stations of the Canadian Pacific Railway even are located at altitudes considerably higher than Ben Nevis, the highest hill in Britain, while one is placed 5296 feet above the level of the sea, or, in other words, at an altitude higher than the famous Ben by over 800 feet.

When the present Premier of the Dominion Government, Sir John Macdonald, began in 1844 his political career, the iron horse was only able to travel over fourteen miles of road. The development of the railway system has since then been enormous, the roads now in operation extending to considerably over 11,000 miles, the Canadian Pacific alone owning over 2900 continuous miles, by means of which it bridges the distance between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In the United Kingdom the longest through journey possible on any one railway is that from Perth to Wick on the Highland Railway, a distance of only 306 miles.

We are rather proud in this country of the Caledonian Canal, which connects by a chain of lakes the Moray Firth on the east coast of Scotland with Loch Linnhe on the west coast. The entire distance from one extremity to the other, however, is little more than sixty miles. How insignificant as compared with the system of canals which, with the intervening lakes, afford a course of water communication from the Straits of Belle Isle to Port Arthur, at the head of Lake Superior, a distance of 2260 miles !

In population does Canada alone contrast badly with the rest of the universe, for while the people of England and Wales numbered at last census 25,974,439, Scotland, 3,735,573, and Ireland, 5,174,836, Canada could in 1881 only total up 4,324,810. Since the latter year the inhabitants are estimated to have increased by 500,000. In 1806 the population of what is now known as the Dominion was only 453,899. When signing the treaty which transferred Canada to Great Britain, the French monarch exclaimed, by way of minimising the sacrifice entailed upon him by the fortunes of war, "After all, it's only a few square miles of snow." So inaccessible was it at that time, and so small a portion of it was then explored, that he really knew very little about the extent, the value, the climate, or the fertility of the country he was losing. The knowledge has, however, come to us. Considering how limitless are her cultivable lands, how valuable are her minerals, how healthy is her climate, and how fertile are many millions of her acres, Canada has, without doubt, a great future before her, once the surplus populations of Europe really awake to the advantages which she with open arms offers them. Rome was not built in a day, but as it was ultimately built, so will Canada without doubt be peopled.

CHARLES INNES.

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

APRIL 23, 1890.

TORONTO HONOURING THE OLD BARD OF LOCHFYNE.

23/4/1890 N. C.

WE take the following report of proceedings, which many of our readers will find interesting, from the *Toronto Evening Mail* of April 5th :—

It was in the fall of 1850—forty years ago—that Mr Evan Maccoll, then famous as the Bard of Lochfyne, and bearing the laurels bestowed upon him by men in the front rank of literary genius with the same modesty which has been a characteristic of his life, arrived in Canada. Sixteen years previous the "Mountain Minstrel," containing Gaelic and English poems and songs, appeared from his pen. It bore every evidence of being a genuine production of the muse, and the young poet was forced at once into fame. Since then, year by year, his work has increased, and the criticism of more than a century has but added to the reputation of the poet. In early days tribute was paid to his genius by Norman Macleod, R. Carruthers, Robert Chambers (the elder), Hugh Miller, Dr Browne, and others, while in recent times John Stuart Blackie quotes him as a master of descriptive Gaelic poetry, and Prof. Veitch takes his poem on a waterfall in Glen-Urquhart as an illustration of the "eye for nature" which Highlanders possess. His name is a household word in the Highlands still, his poetry outliving the two generations for whom first he sang.

On his arrival in Canada, Mr Maccoll made the acquaintance of Hon. Malcolm Cameron, a member of the Canadian Government, who suggested to him the transfer of his clerkship in the Liverpool Customs for a position in the Provincial Customs of Upper Canada, at Kingston, a suggestion which the poet accepted. He occupied the position thus obtained until 1880, when he was superannuated, after serving his adopted country with fidelity and great ability during the extended period of his appointment. It has always been a matter of regret to his friends that political considerations should have stood in the way of official advancement and a fair superannuation allowance, but the aged bard himself has never been known to complain.

Of late family affairs and the weight of years led him to decide upon taking up his abode in New York, where some members of his family have for some time resided. This step has caused him much regret, for to his mind it is like a second emigration to a strange land, Canada having been his home for so long a time, and his friends and admirers on this side of the boundary line, the number of whom are legion, feel his departure no less keenly. Nowhere is he better known or loved than in Toronto, and his farewell visit was made the occasion of an unique gathering in his honour on Tuesday evening last. His headquarters in the city are at "Charlie" Walker's Crown Hotel, and there a few kindred spirits entertained him on the evening referred to, to a farewell supper. The president of the Gaelic Society, Mr David Spence, occupied the chair, and Mr Hugh Miller, J.P., president of the Caledonian Society, the vice-chair. The Bard was seated in the place of honour on the chairman's right, and next to him sat Mr W. I. Mackenzie, 1st vice-president of the Gaelic Society. Among those present were Messrs John Macpherson, John Imrie, and Lion Alexander (both poets), Duncan Macdonald, Donald Urquhart, John Campbell, A. M. Oliphant, Wilbur Henderson, and Alexander Fraser. Mr Walker placed his best before the guests, and after a sumptuous supper was heartily partaken of the toast list was opened by "The Queen and Royal Family." Mr Wilbur Henderson then proposed "The Highland Chiefs." Leaving the chiefs of past days to be dealt with by Mr Miller in his reply, he spoke of the works done by chiefs of Scotch societies, and pointed to the Benevolent Order of the Sons of Scotland as one whose objects were entitled to the highest praise. On behalf of that organisation he was present to honour their guest. Mr Hugh Miller, who responded, said there was a time when the Highland chiefs bravely led their clansmen to war and wisely guided them in times of peace. But a change had come over the spirit of their dream, and until very recently the clansmen were considered as of no value. He extolled the modern chiefs, the leaders of the benevolent organisations and societies, who upheld the honour and traditions of their country and race wherever the star of fortune led them. He joined with Mr Henderson in his sentiments regarding their beloved guest. Mr Donald Urquhart proposed the toast "Highland Education." So far as the schools were concerned, he said, the Gaelic was a drawback to many a Highland boy and girl, but notwithstanding all disadvantages, the result of the education imparted by the home, the Gaelic catechism, and the everlasting hills, with their undoubted influence on the mind, was such that when the Highlanders came out before the world they successfully competed with their fellow-men, and in the end seized the chief places of the land. He had observed the wonderful success of the Highlander in Britain itself, in South Africa, Asia, and in Australia, and attributed much of that success to the early training which constituted the Highlander's education—(applause). Mr John Campbell replied. He held that the more languages a person knew the more his mind expanded. He would compare the Highlander in this respect to a man who stood equally well on both feet. The English-speaking world owed much to the parochial system of Scotland, which also prevailed

in the Highlands. The Highlander was endowed with great intellectual capacity, and took to education very rapidly. Gaelic-speaking children soon mastered the English tongue as easily and speedily as they afterwards in the battle of life mastered Englishmen—(laughter and applause). "The Poets of Scotland" was proposed in an eloquent speech by Mr A. M. Oliphant, an old friend of Mr Maccoll, and was responded to by Mr John Imrie, who recited a poem of his own composition suitable to the occasion.

Mr David Spence rose amid cheers to propose the health of Bard Maccoll, the guest of the evening. The name of Bard Maccoll was familiar to him as a boy; he was now an old man, and that name was yet famous. Their guest was heir to a long line of Highland poets. He was the worthy successor of the bards of old, and need not be ashamed that he had sung in the glorious language of Ossian, of Ullin, Rob Donn, Iain Lom, Macdonald and Macintyre. Though Maccoll's English poems were tender, sweet, and very fine, he, nevertheless, agreed with a great authority who said that no poet ever wrote a great work in a foreign tongue, and fine as was Maccoll's English verse his Gaelic poetry was infinitely superior—(cheers). That poetry was admired by all who understood the language of the Gael. He then read to the assembled company the piece, "Beannachd Dheireannach an Eilthirich," and drew attention to the beauties of its form and matter. Some of Bard Maccoll's poems would be immortal. Some of them were sung and much prized by people who did not know their authorship, and he could relate an interesting instance of such having been done in the far away island of North Uist. They were proud to honour the poet, whom they knew and esteemed for many years, and who was now leaving the country. They regretted the necessity for his removal, but the change would probably be for their friend's benefit. He would be with his family, and wherever the bard went he was sure to have warm friends around him—(cheers). The toast was drunk with Highland honours.

Mr Maccoll replied as follows:—"Out of the fulness of the heart the mouth speaketh," and you would except of me to respond to your kindness eloquently. But, alas, my lips cannot do fit office for my heart. Indeed I have never learned to make a speech, and although the lion of this gathering I must allow others to do the roaring —(laughter). The pleasure to me of meeting such friends on this occasion is inexpressible. Though the chances are against me, I would fain hope to meet you all again. I am proud, proud indeed, of the high estimation in which you hold my efforts in rhyme. But you have overdone the praise. Yet I value your praises very highly; praises are very dear to me, for you must know that no bard is indifferent to the praises of his friends, and I am particularly weak on that point—(cheers). I hope I shall ever have the gratification of hearing of your upholding the honour and character of the land to which we all belong. You will credit me, I am sure, with feeling deeply this great honour, this crown of reward, although I am slow of speech—(cheers).

Mr John Macpherson in proposing "The Language and Literature of the Gael," to which Mr Fraser replied, said their guest had no mean name among the poets whose names adorned Gaelic literature. The language itself was an incentive to poetry, and they need not be surprised at the large number of poets which could be numbered in the genuine list. He wished to speak of Mr Maccoll's high character as a man. There might be poets who were not ideal men, but their friend not only preached the highest virtues, but practised them in a spotless, unblemished life. He was an honest, honourable, upright, and worthy man, living in the path of duty and fulfilling every duty with scrupulous conscientiousness. He commanded the respect of all who knew him, and his history was one of which they as Highlanders might well be proud. Mr W. I. Mackenzie in a pithy speech proposed "Modern Gaelic Poets," referring to William Ross, the "Ceisteir Crùbach," and others. He said Mr Maccoll would meet a modern Highland poet in New York in the person of Mr Duncan Macgregor Crerar, a genial man and a kind friend. Mr Maccoll's name was coupled with the toast, but he hesitated to respond until some one asked him what of the poetess Mary Mackellar, to which he replied:—"She is a gem of the first water; of all the Maries in Gaelic poetry, and there are several of them, she is unquestionably the most gifted. She is equally happy in both Gaelic and English and in prose and verse. I thank you for honourably and proudly remembering her in this assemblage. There are also many besides who occupy a place among modern Gaelic bards. There are Neil Macleod, John Campbell of Ledaig, the brothere Whyte, and many others living who are bound to make their mark and uphold the name of bard, and a rich succession is sure to follow the present generation. "The Press" was proposed by Mr Hugh Miller; "The Ladies" by Mr Lion Alexander in a rattling speech of anecdote and wit. He presented Mr Maccoll with an acrostic on the Bard's name surrounded with thistles. "The Chairman," "Vice-Chairman," and "Our Host" were duly honoured. During the evening songs were given by Mr Duncan Macdonald and Host Charles Walker, and one of the most enjoyable gatherings held in the city for many a day was brought to an end by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Bard Maccoll will leave next week for Ottawa, where he will remain for a few days with his daughter before leaving for New York.

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

MAY 7, 1890.

THE HIGHLAND CROFTERS IN THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

DEAR SIR,—Within the last two or three weeks I have had an opportunity of visiting the crofter settlements at Killarney, at Wapella, and Saltcoats, situated in our North-west Country; and though the new settlers, as might be expected, do not live on luxuries. I am glad to say that I found no evidence of serious suffering among them. Such a term as starvation is simply ridiculous as applied to them. Indeed, I venture to say, that there is more serious misery on some given streets in some of your own large cities than can be met with among all the white settlers of this country put together. At the same time I can easily imagine how natural for poor people, like that class of emigrants, to feel more or less discouraged. Their inexperience is against them, the financial burden with which they start their new life here, is a serious one, and they get bewildered with the endless novelties which attach to their new situation; and withal a feeling of loneliness creeps over them as they think of the old land and all its endearing associations.

At Killarney I found some thirty families with forty or more acres each ready for seeding, and with houses fairly comfortable. These people expressed themselves as delighted with their prospects, and at the same time as decidedly angry in view of the silly tales of suffering that, somehow, had gone abroad. The women owned themselves as somewhat lonesome, but the men were emphatic in saying, "Cha'd 'eil aithreachas sam bith oirnn guo d'thainig sion do'n duthaich so. 'S cha'n 'eil sinn g'iarraich pilltinn."

The people at Wapella, though longer in the country, have not broken up as much land as their friends at the former place, and somehow, they are not so much in love with the country. They were, however, somewhat out of humour at the time of my visit—being under the impression that the amount of seed grain being furnished by the Government was not going to equal their expectations. I am hopeful, however, that a further supply will be forthcoming.

Curiosity lead me to ask if any of them had died of hunger, but they replied simply with a burst of laughter, the heartiness of which only well-conditioned people could exhibit. They number some sixty or seventy families in this last colonev.

The Highland settlers at Saltcoats arrived only last summer, and they have had but a very limited experience with the new country. The loneliness, incident to a far-away land, has not had time to wear off. Some of them, therefore, are full of complaints, while others at the same time are very hopeful. Their Canadian neighbours insist upon saying that there is no serious suffering among them. I understand they are to be largely employed this summer on a new railway which is being made not far from their settlement. A favourable season and a good crop, such as we are hoping to realize, will have a happy effect all round.

The plan of locating a whole batch of poor people in one place is not without its difficulties, and could people come here on their own responsibility, and scatter themselves among old settlers, their position would command immense advantages.

I have travelled a good deal through this country, and I scarcely remember meeting with either a Canadian or a Mainlander from Scotland who regrets his coming out to Manitoba.

The country has its drawbacks, and unsuitable people will fail here as elsewhere. But, taken as a whole, the country is good, and it offers valuable advantages which thousands of your people should study.

JOHN MACKAY, Presbyterian minister.

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

APRIL 1, 1891,

THE SALTCOATS CROFTER SETTLEMENT IN MANITOBA.

THE following is the extract from the report of Mr George Brown, Watten Mains, Caithness, to which reference is made in our leading columns to-day :—

"We next visited Saltcoats, in which district the crofters sent out under the auspices of the Imperial Government are settled. The district is a wide one, and consists of great tracts of prairie land, covered here and there with scrub. The soil is good, being a deep fertile loam; water being obtained anywhere by sinking wells from 10 to 12 feet. This settlement consists of 49 families, who were sent out in 1889; other 30 families being located near Pelican Lake, in Southern Manitoba, in 1888. The Imperial Government provided means (£120) for each family, which was expended on their transport and homestead, rations being given them until their first crops arrived at maturity. The money advanced is to be repaid in instalments spread over a number of years. D. Grahame, an old Hudson Bay man, who came out to the country one and a half years ago, for the second time, as a Government emigration crofter, says :—'I have to complain of great hardship the first year, because the crops did not grow for the want of rain, and I could not get work at all. I wrote home to my friends that no one should leave there and come to this country. When the harvest of this year—which is a good one—was over, I was better pleased with the place, and would not return home on any condition. I have to complain of the charges the people of this country make for their goods. I have also to complain that the rations were stopped too soon.' NOTE.—In cross-examination, find that this man had been offered work on the railway and refused it, preferring to occupy his spare time drawing firewood to Saltcoats.

"Robert Mackay, Stornoway :—'I have 11 acres under crop this year, and will have other 20 acres broken for 1891. I worked on the railway in the winter time, and got 5s per day. I think my land not fit for cattle, as the water is scarce. I did not like the country last year, as we had no crop owing to drought, but this year I think a great deal better of it. I am quite satisfied with everything done by the people or Government at home. When we got to Halifax we began to get trouble. I think I was charged $30 too much for things bought, and I am not satisfied with having only the half of a waggon, as my neighbour and I often want it the same day. I would rather have a cow less and get a whole waggon. I would have no hesitation in telling my friends to come to this country, and would not now leave it for anything.'

"Charles Docherty, North Uist :—'I have 12 acres under crop this year, and planted 10 bushels potatoes, and have a return of 160 bushels of potatoes and a good crop of wheat. My family also ate potatoes from June till September. I have 12 head of cattle, including my work oxen. I expect to have 21 acres under crop next year. I would not leave the country unless they dragged me away with ropes. I was not pleased at first.'

"Alex. Macdonald, Uist—'I have 12 acres under crop, and expect to put 10 acres more next year. I have nine head of cattle and nine of a family. My family are all healthy. There is a school near us being built. We have a sermon every other week. I am very well pleased with the country, and would not leave it, as I think it the best place in the world for a man with a family.' NOTE — When asked what he thought of the action of the 18 families who left their holdings and took to lumbering instead, he replied, 'I believe they made a mistake, owing to the bad crop the first year, which they will regret all their lives. I think they were misled by a man named Murray.'

"Martin Macdonald :—'I have 8 acres under crop this year, and 4 acres broken for next year. I did not like the country last year, but am very well pleased with it this year. I worked for the railway, and made $33 in three months. This money kept us all the winter. I wish all my friends to come out. I could not go back to live in the old country. I have written for my mother, brother, and two sisters to come here, and I think they will come; anyway, I wish no better place.'

"Kenneth Macivor :—'I have 12 acres under crop this year, and expect to have 20 acres more next year. I have 11 of a family; one girl, aged 16, is nearly blind, and in the hospital at Winnipeg. I have to complain of things being dear here, and of the doctor who inspected us at Greenock for keeping us long on deck on a very cold night. I like the country, and think all my friends ought to come out here, as it is a grand place. I was much displeased with the country last year, because the crop was a failure; but now I am writing home telling them to come, and to Winnipeg for my brother.'

"*Pelican Lake and Killarney.*—This settlement consists of 12 families from Harris and 18 from Lewis, the latter being settled on the opposite side of the lake. These emigrated in 1888.

"D. Mackenzie, Harris, began life with a team, cow and calf, and settled on 160 acres of land. During the first year he broke 8 acres, and in 1890 had 49 acres under crop. His cattle have done well, and he sells enough butter and eggs to keep the house. The winter is not so bad as in the old country, because when the snow comes on it never changes; so that one day one does not get wet, and the next dry, the same as in the old country. Would not leave the country for the same quantity of land in the old place. There is a good school and a church near the homestead.

"Roderick Mackay, Harris, has put in 44 acres wheat, also 5 acres for his father, who is an old man, and resides on a neighbouring homestead. The potatoes were an excellent crop, and first-rate quality. He has also broken 10 acres more this season for his father. He has six of a family, who are all well pleased with the country. He has 11 cattle, 2 pigs, and lots of poultry.

"D. Stewart, Fort-Augustus:—Interviewed Mrs Stewart. 'I did not like the country at first, feeling it very lonesome, as there were no neighbours about; but I got over that in time, and would not now like to leave the place. I have four of a family, and we hope to do well by them in the time to come. We have 70 acres this year under crop, beside potato ground. We have eight

cows in calf, five cows giving milk, and a litter of young pigs, which we sell when they are a month old. I do not find the winter colder than in the old country. I get 9d per lb. for butter, and 5d per dozen for eggs. This is the grandest country in the world for rearing stock and poultry, as heifers will have a calf when 18 months old.'

"The next is the report of an interview Lord Aberdeen had some time after with one of these crofters, and as it is representative, I here reproduce it. The Earl called upon John Macleod, who is the leading crofter in the settlement, who replied as follows:—'Well, my Lord, I can tell you it was a lucky day for myself and family when we went on board the steamer that took us out of Scotland and landed us in this fine country. I have three sons, and they own 160 acres of land each. I own 160 acres myself; making a total of 640 acres. I and my sons work together on the land, and we have about 90 acres under crop. We have three yoke of oxen, several cows, and young stock. We have about 900 bushels of wheat this season, and plenty oats, barley, potatoes, and vegetables. We will have 150 acres under crop next year. We are only three miles from timber at Pelican Lake. There is any amount of fish in the lake, and a large quantity of ducks and geese, and turkeys, and prairie chickens on the wheat fields; when the season for shooting comes in, we can blaze away at them. We have no landlords, no old country gamekeepers to arrest us for shooting game. Our carriages, horses &c., are free from taxation; we only pay $30 a year taxes for the whole section of 640 acres. We all like this country. The soil is black vegetable loam from 18 to 24 inches deep, and a rich marly subsoil several feet deep, and a blue clay bottom. Several farmers have raised crops here of wheat for 10 years in succession without manure. I often think of our people in Scotland who are working all their lives for the landlords for just enough to keep soul and body together. Let them come to this country, where they can be free from the grasp of Landlordism, and become the owners of an estate of 160 acres of good land as long as grass grows and water runs. We have plenty of room for them in this great North-West country, and I can now with confidence invite them all to come where they can make comfortable homes for themselves and their families.'

"The Earl at this point wished to hear of any drawbacks to the country.

"'Very well, my son,' said Macleod. 'If I would tell you anything about the dark side, I would be telling you something I know nothing about, because it has been all the bright side with me since I came here. I am authorised to make this statement by the whole of the crofters in this settlement. When I first arrived at Killarney, I was offered $2 50 a day for doing mason work, and the first job of mason work I did I got $2·50 a day; I can now get $3 a day, but I cannot leave my farm. There is plenty of work here for masons and man labourers, but I prefer to stick to my farm; and I can say that any who will work and till his farm properly can make a good living here.'

"*Mossomin Settlement.*—The crofters who make up this settlement are from the estates of Lady Gordon Cathcart. In the year 1883, owing to the congested state of some parts of these estates, there was an offer made of £100 to the head of each family who desired to emigrate to the North-West. This sum was to be expended, along with the amount obtained by the sale of their farm stock, in their transport, and to enable them to begin life with some hope of success in their new homes. Fifty-six families availed themselves of the offer, 11 going out the first year, and 45 following the succeeding one. The money advanced was secured under the 59th clause of the Dominion Land Act. The location selected is near the town of Moosomin; the country around being rolling, or undulating, with gullies and creeks scattered about in its area. The soil is a good loam, and in many parts covered with scrub. Good bottom land, as well as water, is abundant. A country well adapted for mixed farming.

"D. Macdonald, South Uist:—Has been fairly successful, but had a bad crop last year owing to drought. Has no complaint to make against the country. 'I had 18 acres under crop last year, and will put in three more this season. I have two cows, four other cattle, and one team of oxen, and have got all the implements I require, self-binder included. I might go back to the old country, but would not stay there, as this is a healthy place, and a man is more independent. Besides, I have got a very good crop this year.'

"Farquhar Beaton, South Uist:—Had very little money when he came to the country. Has now 100 acres under wheat, 30 head of cattle, 1 horse, all the implements, and a team of oxen. Has a tidy house and offices, and farms his land well. Would go back to the old country if he got a very good situation, but would not go back to farm.

"J. Campbell, South Uist:—'I have seven cattle, and 40 acres under wheat. I like the country, but would like to visit the old place.' 'Would you stay?' 'Och! no, no.' 'Then you would not farm at home?' 'Na, faith, I did not sow all my land this year. If I had done so, I would be rich.'

"Mackinnon, South Uist, located at Red Jacket:—'I sold 18 to 20 cattle this year, and have on hand 40 head more. I bought a pair of horses for 250 dollars. Seasons are changeable. I have about 80 acres under crop, and have a return of about 2,000 bushels wheat.'

"Any comment from me is unnecessary, as the preceding interviews, selected haphazard from my note-book, are sufficient evidence as to the present position and future prospects of the crofters. I may add that on enquiry I found that of the 18 families who left their homesteads, 13 would not take the locations selected for them by the officials in the vicinity of the others, but went in a body to the Leech Lake district and selected the land for themselves. Some of the lands are odd-numbered sections, and in consequence belonged to the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. The company at once gave the sections to the Government, so that the crofters might homestead. These 13 families left this land of their own section before they had occupied it 18 months. One of the 18 is dead; one works on the railway, but is to take up his homestead; the others have moved west. On our way back from the North-West I met a delegate from Dakota who travelled over Manitoba with us. He informed me that he had just completed the purchase of 60 homesteads at Saltcoats, where settlers from Dakota were to migrate; this district being, he considered, the best selection he could make."

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

MAY 18, 1892.

THE TORONTO HIGHLANDERS.

No event in military circles since the return of the troops from the North-West caused such widespread interest, says the *Toronto Mail*, as the first public turnout of the 48th Highlanders, recently embodied in that city. There must have been nearly 50,000 people in the Queen's Park where the regiment assembled and along the line of march, and as the Highlanders, in their bright scarlet tunics and dark tartan kilts, arrived, they were the centre of attraction. Many of the men were old soldiers who had seen active service in the regulars, and wore on their breasts medals as proofs of their bravery in campaigns in various parts of the globe. The soldierly bearing of the men was much commented on by the spectators, amongst whom were many of the most prominent citizens of Toronto. In spite of the excitement attendant on the occasion the regiment, which numbered over 300 officers and men, made a very creditable appearance. A large proportion of the men were much above the medium height, "A" Company specially being composed of stalwart Scotchmen. This company is commanded by Captain Donald Murdoch Robertson, a native of Glengarry, and a gentleman who rendered Trojan service in the forming and organizing of the regiment, partly in recognition of which he holds seniority of rank among the captains. He is an enthusiastic and popular young Highlander, and in a short time gathered around him a fine company of "braw, braw, lads," many of them Gaelic-speaking Glengarrians over six feet high and of most soldierly appearance. But the same could be said with almost equal justness of the other seven companies which form the battalion. When the pipers struck up the historic "Bha mi air bauais a'm baile Iona-raora" the men, overlooking the point conveyed in the time, lengthened and strode proudly along, while the crowds expressed their admiration. It is unnecessary to say that the appearance of the officers and men in the Highland uniform was much admired. The contractors, Messrs Robert Fraser & Sons, of Inverness, deserve the greatest credit for the manner in which they fulfilled their part. The quality is superior, the tunics being a fine grade and the tartan for the kilts and trews being exceptionally fine cheviot of Inverness manufacture; the tailoring also is most excellent, every article being hand made by experienced workmen, who worked throughout under the personal supervision of the firm. The Glengarries and sporrans are of good material and finish. The margin of profit cannot be very large, adds the *Mail*, when goods of so high a quality are furnished at the reasonable prices charged, and the regiment is to be heartily congratulated on the fact of having made such a satisfactory contract.

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 15, 1893.

REV. MR MACKENZIE, NORTH CHURCH, ON HIS CANADIAN TRIP.

LAST night, Rev. Mr Mackenzie, North Church, Inverness, gave an interesting account, in the church, of his recent visit to Canada in connection with the Pan-Presbyterian Council at Toronto. The evening was cold and stormy, but, notwithstanding, there was a very large attendance of the congregation, and the reverend gentleman was followed with close attention. The address was delivered under the auspices of the Mutual Improvement Society, which was originated a few years ago by a number of the young men of the congregation, and now possesses a large membership. Mr J. Mackay, president of the society, occupied the chair.

Rev. Mr Mackenzie said that having been appointed by the General Assembly of 1892, one of the delegates to the Pan-Presbyterian Council to meet at Toronto on Wednesday, the 21st of September, and having in time secured his berth in the steamship City of Rome, he left Inverness on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 24th of August, in order to join it at Greenock on Thursday 25th. His room companions on the City of Rome were—Rev. Thomas Smith, ex-moderator the General Assembly, and Rev. John Macewen, Edinburgh; and among the other delegates on board were—Rev. Dr Henderson, Crieff; Rev. Mr Lee, Nairn; Rev. Mr Murray, Brora; Rev. Mr William Ross, Glasgow; Rev. Mr Sturrock, minister of the Original Secession Church, Edinburgh; and Mr Wm. Whyte, elder, Edinburgh. In the staterooom he (Mr Mackenzie) occupied the highest berth, and from his lofty position he was able to look down upon his distinguished friends—(laughter). Their ship was like a floating town, for it had a population of upwards of 1600 souls on board. The great majority were Americans returning from the "Grand tour." To those who had been at sea he was sure they knew that one day on board ship was like another. The greatest distance made by the City of Rome in one day was 403 miles.

Acquaintances on Board Ship.

Of the acquaiotances he made on board one of the most interesting was a Mr Macgowan, an Irishman, who had been for 40 years in the United States, and acquired property there. He had been on a visit to his friends in Ireland, and was now returning to America. He was a most intelligent man, a thorough Christian, and a true blue Presbyterian—an elder of that branch of the Presbyterian Church in America which only used the Psalms in the worship of the sanctuary, and was thoroughly opposed to innovations in doctrine and in worship. He regarded Popery as the curse of Ireland and the source of all her miseries. He emphatically declared that Home Rule in Ireland meant Rome Rule. He was a man after his own heart, and they had most pleasant intercourse till they parted in New York. Another was a Dr Marques of Chicago, who was elected Professor of Divinity in its Theological College—a great friend of Dr Begg. He told him how he regretted he did not accept Dr Begg's invitation to accompany him to Dingwall to the Communion there, as he never witnessed a Highland Communion. He also told him that when his friend introduced him to Dr Begg he said they were "chips of the same block." He was most anxious that he (Mr Mackenzie) should go to Chicago, and promised if he would that he would send him to visit the Highland settlement in Illinois. Unfortunately his time did not admit of his making the visit. He also met Dr Webster, president of the University of Schenectady in the state of New York, and a young man from Virginia, a minister's son, with whom he had interesting conversations.

In New York.

The City of Rome arrived in the bay of New York on Friday, the 2nd of September at 10 P.M., and they expected to get into the harbour early on Saturday morning, but instead of that they were kept in quarantine until 1 P.M. on Saturday on account of the cholera, which was then raging on the Continent of Europe. Whenever he put his foot upon American soil he was at once met by Mr John Mackay, brother of Mr Mackay, Glen-Urquhart, who showed great kindness, and helped him very much in getting through the custom house. They got to their hotel about ten o'clock on Saturday night, and after a late tea they retired to their rooms. They enjoyed the night's rest, and awoke in the morning very much refreshed. They had now their first experience of a New York Sabbath. They conferred as to the preachers they would go to hear. The most popular preachers of New York were not at home. He was anxious to go to a church that would be in the matter of worship like the North Church, which is a most difficult thing to find in New York. Such a place, however, was found. Mr Sturrock and he resolved to go to the Reformed Church, or as they were termed in America—the Covenanters. They went, and they were not disappointed. They got a most excellent sermon, and the worship was conducted just as at home. The minister was most faithful, and denounced in severe terms the office-bearers who drove to church in their carriages on Sabbath, reading the Sunday newspaper. They returned to their Hotel highly satisfied, and their friends who went elsewhere were disappointed. In the evening he went to a Dutch Reformed Church. The sermon was very evangelical; but the mode of worship was much more Episcopal than Presbyterian. In returning to his room he could not but feel thankful that his lot was given him in Scotland with all its privileges and advantages. The advantages of America seemed to him to be of the earth, earthy. On Monday they went sight-seeing. Monday is what is called "labour day," and is observed as a general holiday throughout the United States. Among the multitude of the working classes in New York whom they observed walking about on that day, they only observed two who could be said to be under the influence of strong drink, which was certainly a great contrast to what they witnessed in their own country upon such days. On Tuesday they continued their sight-seeing, visiting the Chinese, Italian, and Jewish quarters in the city. They went to the United States Treasury and the Exchange, and at the latter, the men seemed to him to be more in fighting attitude than men engaged in business. In the evening he went to the hospital. One of the nurses told him there was a woman from Inverness a patient in the ward. He expressed a desire to see her, but it turned out that she was from Aberdeen. Her husband, however, was from the neighbourhood of Inverness. Upon asking the name of the place, she replied—"The place where the battle of Waterloo was fought," meaning, of course, Culloden—(laughter).

There was an unusual congregation at the services, upwards of 1000 at the English service, and about 600 at the Gaelic. The congregation was just like an ordinary town and country congregation. All evidently belonged to the same class, and there was an air of respectability and comfort about them all. At the close of the service a number flocked around him, inquiring about their friends and acquaintances. Among the number was Hugh Jack, a native of Resolis, who came upwards of 40 miles to be present at the services. They came long distances and represented a number of congregations. It might be interesting to some of them to know that this was the congregation of Mr Donald Mackenzie, brother of the late Thomas Mackenzie of the High School. He was minister there for 40 years, and was held in the highest respect. He was styled the Dr Macdonald of Canada. He stood

at the grave, over which there is a magnificent monument erected. On Monday the manse was crowded by men and women enquiring after their friends in the old country. In order to satisfy himself as to the part of the Highlands whence the early settlers came, he went to the cemetery; there he found that two thirds of those whose dust rested in that cemetery came from the parishes of Creich, Rogart, and Dornoch. He visited an old man 92 years of age who left Creich 60 years ago—a godly man longing to get home to his everlasting rest. He remembered hearing Mr Kennedy and Dr Macdonald preach before the Disruption, and told him a note of Mr Kennedy's sermon. In the evening he drank tea with Mr Mann—one of the elders, whom he saw two years ago in Dr Aird's house—a most intelligent man. He drove him and Mr Jack on Tuesday morning to Woodstock, the charge Dr Mactavish held before he was translated to Inverness. They took train from Woodstock to Millbank, passing by Stratford, where he saw Hugh Jack, late of Innes Street, Inverness. He preached in Mr Jack's house in the evening. The house was crowded. He met people from Ferrintosh and Kilmuir Easter. He found Mr Jack to be one of the most prosperous farmers in Ontario. At Ripley he was met by Mr Adam Macqueen, one of the ministers of the town, and a brother of the late Rev. Mr Macqueen, Daviot. He resembled his brother, and is an exceedingly kind man. The great majority of the people are Lewismen. He preached in his church in English to a large congregation. He also preached in Mr Sutherland's church in Gaelic. He subseqeuntly proceeded to Kincardine on the banks of Lake Huron, where he preached in Gaelic and in English. Here he met a man from Ballachulish and a James Tolmie, son of Alexander Tolmie, late of Laggan. On arrival at Lucknow of Kinloss, south-east of Kincardine and Ripley, the communion season was being observed. Many came by train from Kincardine and Ripley. The fellowship meeting began by an old minister, Mr Grant, conducting the preliminary services. Then followed Mr Finlay Maclennan, the minister, a native of Harris, a great admirer of the late Dr Mackay of Harris, and of Dr Kennedy, Dingwall—a most excellent man in every respect, who asked for a passage of scripture as a basis of their remarks, when a John Macleod, an old shepherd of the late Mr Roderick Macleod of Snizort, gave out Matthew xix. 28, "Marks of those who follow Christ in the regeneration." Mr Sutherland, Ripley, opened the question very ably, and then Mr Maclennan called upon the "men" to speak. The first asked was a Murdo Mackenzie, a very old man, born in Cape Breton, but his ancestors emigrated from Torridon. A number of men spoke and spoke well, perhaps rather too long. The eminent ministers whose memory they revered were quoted by those men as they did in this country, Mr Lachlan, Dr Macdonald, and Mr Kennedy. He preached on Saturday and Monday and three times on Sabbath. It was most interesting to him to see in the congregation his old elder and precentor at Clachan, Kintyre. He came from the town of Paisley, a distance of 40 miles. He is 77 years of age, and still looks very well. He reminded him that he often asked him to preach from the text which he had that day at Clachan, but that he never did it, and that he had to go to Canada to preach from it to him. On Tuesday, the 20th of September, he went to Ashfield to the west to be present at Mr Rose's induction. The church was crowded, and he was associated with the Presbytery, who made him address the people in Gaelic and in English. He dined with a Mr Duncan Macrae, a native of Lochalsh, and his farm is called after that parish. He is a man of 80, and looks hale and strong. That same evening he returned to Ripley, where he assisted in performing the marriage ceremony of Mr Macqueen's daughter. He then drove to Kinloss, a distance of 10 miles, and started on Wednesday morning for Toronto, where he arrived at one o'clock. Mr Mackenzie then described the proceedings of the Council, which is held once in every four years. He also related excursions made from the city, including a visit to the Niagara Falls, which he did in company with Mr and Mrs Morrison, Birchwood, Inverness. Mr Mackenzie in his further remarks, stated that he preached to Highlanders in Gaelic in Richmond Hall, in Toronto, on Thursday, 25th September; they belonged to Argyllshire, Inverness-shire, Ross-shire, and Sutherlandshire. Some of them remembered him when he was a boy teaching in the parish of Kiltarlity; some of them were connected with his congregation at Clachan, and some had been connected with the North Church, Inverness. At a reception by the Lieut.-Governor and his lady, he was introduced to Sir David Macpherson, a native of Inverness-shire, with whom he had a long conversation—about Inverness. He next experienced kindness from Mr George Macbean of the Grand Trunk Railway, and Mr Andrew Fraser, late of Ballifeary, both of whom are doing well, and proud of their connection with Inverness. On 2nd October he assisted in dispensing the Communion at Moriston and Crieff; he preached on Monday, 13th, at Hamilton, in response to an application by the Highlanders written in Gaelic. Mr Mackenzie then dwelt upon his return journey from Toronto to New York, remarking that on the way he left the train at Glengarry, and preached to the Highlanders there. He there met John Macdonald of Invermoriston, who was an elder in the Free Church of Fort-Augustus in Mr Macbean's and Mr Macall's day. He also preached in Gaelic at Roxburgh. He then proceeded to New York, reaching there on Saturday, 15th October, when he regained his old friends, and set sail for home at 1 P.M. They had a somewhat rough passage. They reached Greenock on Tuesday, 25th, and he arrived at Inverness by the 6.5 train, to meet kind friends who welcomed them back. Rev. Mr Mackenzie, in conclusion, spoke as follows:—

Impressions of America—The Emigration Question.

Our experience of America, so far as we can judge from the short time we were there, is this—that we would be very sorry indeed to see our institutions Americanised either in Church or in State. They need much more to learn from us than we have to learn from them. All the good that is in their system they have inherited from us. But their restlessness and go-a head should be avoided as much as possible. We rejoiced at the loyalty of the Canadians. They seemed to us to be more loyal than many of ourselves—only that we never felt our own loyalty so genuine and true as we did there. Wherever we went

the old country and its institutions were ever spoken of with the highest respect. It is true that the natives of Canada are not so passionately fond of the old country as their fathers, but this is a feature in their character which we rather liked, and which we regard as a wise arrangement of Providence. If they did not feel attached to their native land, then their interest in it would cease. At the same time their loyalty to the British Crown is quite as genuine, and enthusiastic as their fathers'. Canada is bound to be a great country. It is yet in its elementary stage, but it will improve materially as time advances, and the probability is that it will not continue as a colony of the British Empire for ever, but we think that it will be in the course of time an independent kingdom, with a descendant of Queen Victoria as its King. From an ecclesiastical point of view Canada may also be said to be at its elementary stage. The Roman Catholics are in the majority in the Province of Quebec. The Methodists and Presbyterians are the prevailing bodies in Ontario. There is great activity among them. There are most excellent ministers in the Presbyterian Church, but we were sorry to find the worship so much corrupted by hymns and organs which tend rather to deaden than to quicken the people. Again, we found that ministers move from place to place more than they do in this country, and that the mode of supporting the Christian ministry is not what it should be. If the minister offends then the purse strings are fastened, and the minister is starved out. I never saw so many retired ministers as I saw in Canada. What Canada needs in Church and State is that God would raise up men head and shoulders above their fellows in talent, in wisdom, in piety, and in disinterestedness, and who, by the blessing of God, would put their ecclesiastical and political institutions upon a sound constitutional basis, impregnated with the principles of the Word of God. There are no classes in Canada, especially in the country, where they are almost all farmers. You don't see the mansion house or the castle nestling in the wood. I offended some of the Canadians by saying that they would be the better of a Christian aristocracy, which would be as models to them, and as incentives to themselves to rise in the social scale. They were very anxious that I would go to see their model farm at Guelph. I asked them—Why have you such a model? The answer was—To enable us to raise our farms to that model. Well, I said, would you not be the better of having models to raise yourselves higher in the social scale. Of course they pointed to the British aristocracy, and that in general their influence was for evil. I could not deny it; but I meant a Christian aristocracy. I was also agreeably disappointed in finding that they had no such feelings against the landed proprietors of this country as I expected they would have. I asked natives of Kintail and Lochalsh if they blamed the late Mr Livingston for leaving their native land. And they said, "No. He did everything in his power to improve our condition, but we said we would never have but poverty there. We left of our own accord, and we prospered, and so have others also." We could not but see the kindness of God in opening up this country to Britain for her surplus population, and if there had been no emigration from the Highlands of Scotland within the last 50 years, where would you have land for the population you would have. We can speak freely and rationally upon this question now, as there is no danger of evictions taking place. We cannot but condemn tyrannical evictions, and of removing a God fearing people from their homes for making a forest for deer, but, at the same time, emigration is a necessity, and why should people starve at home when they can get comfortable homes elsewhere. Do you advise us to go to Canada? Well, I don't think there is much land unoccupied in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. The land seems to me to be taken up already. The only class which would have a chance of succeeding there are monied men, who would be able to buy farms, as many of them are mortgaged, and would be sold at a very reasonable price. The province which offers every encouragement is Manitoba and the north-wast, which I did not see. Young men of sound physical constitution, of sterling moral principles, with the fear of God in their hearts, would soon make a comfortable home for themselves, so far as I was able to learn from those who know the country. But old people who have spent their days at home should be willing to remain at home. They cannot rough it out there, and they are far more comfortable at home than they can ever expect to be in a foreign land. Before closing let me refer to the name of a minister whose name and memory are most savoury in Canada, that is Mr Macpherson of East Williams, whose widow is now a member of our own congregation. Everywhere throughout Canada, especially amongst Highlanders, his memory is revered, and he is spoken of with utmost affection and esteem for godly consistency and integrity, as well as for his power as a preacher of the gospel. I beg also to express my high appreciation of the cordiality with which I was received everywhere; and I cannot express sufficiently my sense of the hospitality of the Canadian manses. Most certainly Highland hospitality is not confined to the Highlands. You will find it on a princely scale in the Canadian manses. The difficulty with me was how to partake of it, as they had everything so rich, and I have always lived in a plain way. I will always remember with delight the Highland ministers in whose manses I was entertained, and I would be glad to see some of them settled among ourselves. I have now to thank you for your handsome gift upon my return. You have paid all expenses connected with the supply of my pulpit in my absence, you have paid all the expenses connected with my trip, and you have adopted such a method for raising the handsome gift as entirely commended itself to me. You have made no demonstration in presenting the gift to me, but in a quiet, friendly way. I think more of it as an expression of good-will and attachment to my person and ministry when I think of all the demands made upon you in connection with the erection of the new church. Let me, therefore, thank you sincerely for your kindness, and perhaps you will all be glad to know that my trip to Canada has done me very much good, as I have felt stronger this winter than I have done since I came to Inverness.

At the close, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Rev. Mr Mackenzie.

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

OCTOBER 18, 1893.

MR ALEX. FRASER, BALLOCH, IN CANADA.

We have received the following interesting letter from Mr Alexander Fraser, farmer, Balloch of Culloden, who in August last went out to Canada as one of the Scottish delegates, to report on the agricultural resources of the Dominion :—

Prince Albert, 23rd September, 1893.

Sir,—In fulfilment of my promise made on leaving Inverness, I now send you a few lines descriptive of my journey through this country, and of the general impression it has conveyed to my mind. As it is part of my duty to make out a detailed report for the Canadian Government on the agricultural resources of the country on my return, I will confine myself pretty much to generalities in this article, and introduce other subjects along with agriculture.

I left Liverpool by the Allan Liner Parisian, commanded by Captain Joseph Ritchie, on the 17th August last. She is of 3362 tons register, and is supposed to be one of the best vessels belonging to the Allan Line. We carried in all 811 souls, including 201 cabin passengers, 172 second cabin, 288 steerage, and 150 of a crew. The passage across was one of the swiftest the vessel ever has made, and if it had not been for a fog we encountered in the Gulf of St Lawrence, we would have, it is believed, broken the record. Fortunately I did not suffer from seasickness, and accordingly was able to enjoy the trip to the full extent. Until we were within a day's sail of the American coast, we met with nothing to break the monotony of the voyage, but afterwards there was plenty to be seen. I counted from the deck one morning no fewer than 20 icebergs of all shapes and sizes, from the insignificant block of ice to what might readily be mistaken for a life size model of the Crystal Palace. The effect when the sun shone on these huge masses of ice, changing them into all the different colours of the rainbow, was very pretty. At 7.30 A.M. on Friday 25th August we were met by the tender ship off Rimouski, which landed the mails, and on the same evening at 6 P.M. we were moored alongside the wharf at Quebec. The best run made by the ship was on Thursday the 24th, when the distance accomplished was 361 miles in 24 hours. After getting into the Gulf of St Lawrence, we had a concert and dance on board—the former was a great success, but, owing to the weather, the latter was not so brilliant as was expected. About 2 A.M. on Saturday the vessel left for Montreal, and when I came on deck at 6 A.M., she was well on her way steaming up against the swift current of the river. The scenery at this point is very fine, and reminds one much of the sail up the Clyde, only the country is considerably flatter, and the river very much deeper and wider. Montreal was reached shortly after noon, where we had to bid a regretful adieu to our fellow passengers, and busy ourselves looking after the baggage. The customs here are not difficult to get through, the officers, as a rule, taking your word for what your portmanteau contains, and not insisting on an inspection.

The first impression conveyed to the mind on landing, and one that gets strengthened every day you are in the country, is the social equality of the people, or to put it in plainer words, Jack considers himself here as good as his master, and the master seems to be very much of the same opinion. There is an entire absence of that element which prevails so largely in most of our seaport towns, viz., the really miserable looking beggar who, either from real necessity or other motives, importunes one for money. As yet I have not encountered a single person who asked me for a copper, and, in addition, all seem to wear a look of independence, as if they were far above thinking of such a thing. As all the large cities of Canada have been so often described, it is unnecessary for me to go into detail. I may mention, however, that the system of electric tramways at work in most of the towns seems a great improvement on the more familar horse service. The electricity is supplied to the car from a wire overhead, which runs down the centre of the street. I believe the great objection to this is, that if the wire break and come in contact with anybody, the result is instant death. A good many accidents happen in this way, and there is a movement on foot to introduce a method by which the electricity can be stored on the cars. The speed attained by the cars is very considerable, I should say from 8 to 10 miles an hour. As to hotels, they are invariably very comfortable, but are conducted on a different style, at least in some matters, from those at home. There is usually a large entrance hall, with a stove in the centre, round which the guests sit smoking or reading the current news of the day. A corner is fenced off by a counter behind which stands the clerk, and you are expected to register your name in the volume which lies on the desk before him. The meals are all served at fixed hours, and great difficulty is experienced in getting anything except at the usual meal hour. Potatoes, vegetables, &c., are served to each guest separately, so that at dinner one is quite surrounded with the various dishes.

Four days were spent between Montreal and Ottawa, and all the principal buildings and sights of each city were seen. The view from the top of Mount Royal is very fine. I went up by the cable railway, which has a gradient of 1 in 2, and from the summit saw the city of Montreal laid out beneath, with the mighty St Lawrence carrying on its bosom thousands of tons of shipping, winding away in the distance. At Ottawa we saw through the Houses of Parliament, and a good view of the city is to be had from the tower over the Senate House. As it was desirable to see the great wheat country of the North West before the grain had been removed from the fields, we pushed on as quickly as possible. The railway track from Ottawa to Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, lies through a wild rocky country, which may possess great mineral wealth, but, so far as agriculture goes, has but little value. We accomplished this journey in about 52 hours, leaving Ottawa on 30th August at 1.15 A.M., and reaching Winnipeg on the following Friday at 5.30 A.M. We had berths on the Pullman sleeping car, which is somewhat similar to the one used on the Highland Railway, but a good deal more commodious. On the morning of each day a dining-car was attached to the train, on which meals of excellent quality were served. The charge was 75 cents for each meal, and drink of all sorts could be had. In addition, the train stops to allow passengers time to take meals at roadside stations, where a good dinner can be got for 25 cents or about one shilling. Some of our party got off at Fort-William, where we stopped for twenty minutes to dine, and after the example of the ruler of Dotheboy's Hall, proceeded to stretch our legs at a local tavern. I was more than pleased when, on asking for Scotch, a bottle of Bailie Mackenzie's famous "Glendrostan" was put down before us. Owing to the shaking of the train, I did not sleep very well, but other members of our party slept as soundly as at home.

At Winnipeg we had an interview with Mr H. H. Smith, Dominion Lands Commissioner, at which our route through the North West was roughly sketched out, and Mr George H. Cox, Inspector of Crown Lands, a gentleman who thoroughly knows the country, was appointed to conduct the delegation through the various districts. On leaving Winnipeg our work really began, and since that we have been kept very busy, driving, as a rule, between forty and fifty miles daily. The horses here are able to do very much more work than at home, and

have excellent wind. It is thought nothing unusual for a horse to do sixty miles a day. The kind of vehicle in general use is what is known as a rig, and for those who have not seen this machine I may describe it as a waggon set on four wheels with the seats across. The springs are very good, yielding a lot when going over any obstructions in the road; the wheels are narrow rimmed and very light, resembling somewhat the wooden wheel used in the old fashioned velocipede, and are made of hickory in order to give them the requisite strength. They are set very far apart, so that it seems almost impossible to capsize. Several times at the commencement of our journey I thought that we were bound to come to grief when the machine sloped at an angle of 45°, but now I am beginning to have more confidence. It is said whatever the horses can jump the rig will follow. The roads, or rather trails as they are called here, are all natural, very little grading being necessary, and at present they are in excellent condition, presenting a smooth firm surface. In most parts of the country the horses are only shod on the two fore feet and are in consequence very sure footed, such a thing as a horse coming down being almost unknown. It is not an uncommon thing to see badgers holes in the middle of the trail, so travelling in the dark is dangerous; but during daylight it is almost impossible to get a horse to put its foot into one of these, they are so accustomed to them. The route taken by us from Winnipeg to here is as follows:—from Winnipeg per the C.P.R. to Portage-la-Prairie, from Portage per the Manitoba and North Western Railway to Russell, taking Neepawa and Minnedosa on the way; from Russell we retraced our journey as far as Neepawa, from there driving across the country, and again joining the C.P.R system at Carberry. We then proceeded west, laying off for a day or so at the following places, viz —Brandon, Indian Head, Qu' Appelle, and Regina, the capital of the north-west territories, and the seat of the local government. From the latter place a branch line, which has been in operation for about three years, proceeds to Prince Albert, 200 miles north, from which I now write.

As may be supposed, we have seen, during these extensive travels, a great variety of soils, and a varied configuration of country—from the prairie, flat as a billiard table, and without a single tree to break the monotony, to what I might describe as mountainous country, and abounding in lakes and creeks, and dotted over with bluffs of the poplar tree. As I have stated, it will be my duty to give a detailed report of the agricultural resources of the country afterwards, so that it would be superfluous to go into that minutely here; indeed it would be quite impossible to compress the subject into the limits of a newspaper letter. But this I may state, that the result produced upon my mind—from what I have already seen, and from the testimony of dozens of farmers now in good circumstances, who have been interviewed (farmers who came here penniless 10 to 15 years ago)—is that there is a good opening for those who are enterprising, steady, and willing to work. I think the enormous amount of bodily labour which I have hitherto understood the pioneer has to encounter has been over-stated. It is my opinion, that even in their busiest seasons here the work is not heavier than what an average farm servant performs at home. Labouring men well up in years do not bear the signs of physical exhaustion which are sometimes, indeed often, exhibited by the same class at home. Perhaps the climate has to do with that to a certain extent, as, in my own case, I feel that the same amount of exertion I easily get through here would fatigue me very much at home.

Before closing, I would like to say a few words in particular about our visit to Fort Qu' Appelle, which, in my opinion, is the prettiest country, from a scenic point of view, that we have yet visited. The following is copied from my diary:—"The town, which is built round the old Fort, is a place of about 400 inhabitants, with schools, churches, and a flour mill. It is very nicely situated on a chain of lakes similar to the Caledonian Canal; indeed it reminded me in many ways of Fort-Augustus. After the eye has been so long accustomed to the flat prairies, I can hardly describe the pleasing sensation of contrast and relief it was to gaze upon a clear expanse of water sparkling in the sun. The valley in which the chain of lakes is situated, is I should say about 400 feet below the general level of the surrounding country, and the ground dips down at an angle of about 45° in many places, and is cut into all sorts of peculiar shapes resembling snow-drift. All gullies and valleys leading up to the prairie are thickly wooded with poplar, and the general effect, looking down from the brow of the hill, is very picturesque. Mr Steven, the other Scotch delegate, and myself gladly availed ourselves of the kind invitation of Mr Archibald Macdonald, factor for the Hudson Bay Company, and a native of Glengarry, Scotland, to pass the night with him. He is a well-informed gentleman, and although he has now been over 30 years away from Scotland, he is nearly as conversant with public affairs in Inverness as I am. The *Northern Chronicle* is taken in every week. Among other matters, I enquired what he thought of the scheme for sending crofters out here, and how they get along after coming. Mr Macdonald has visited the settlement at Pelican Lake several times, and he is of opinion that it is a mistake to send them out in bodies. The result has not been satisfactory. In the first place, by being all put together they get no insight into the proper methods of farming, and have no neighbours who can afford to employ them during their leisure time; and secondly, as the land over a large section of country such as they occupy must vary considerably in quality, some have good and others inferior land to work upon. If these men were scattered generally over the country, and intermixed with the other settlers, instead of being huddled together talking over old times and fancied grievances, it is Mr Macdonald's opinion that they would succeed much better."

In the morning we had a splendid drive over the prairie to the north-west of the town, and saw some good land open for settlement, suitable both for wheat and cattle-rearing. We visited the Indian Reserve and saw a native village, looking, by the way, into several wigwams or, as they are more generally called, teepees, and interviewing a chief and his squaw. These Indians belong to the Sioux tribe, and are the remnant of those who escaped from the Minnesota massacre. We drove home by the lake shore, thus completing one of the most enjoyable outings I have had since landing. Near home a fox crossed the trail, and in a moment all was excitement as we dashed after him in expectation of getting within range. This, I believe, we succeeded in doing several times, and could have had a fair shot if our driver had not misunderstood the repeated cries of one of our party to "pull up." This he imagined was to spur him on instead of to stop, and the result was the fox got clear away up the steep mountain side. One of our disappointed sportsmen sent a shot after him at long range, at which he only shook his tail with a wave of contempt, and disappeared over the brow of the hill.

From Prince Albert we go straight through to the Pacific Coast, and intend to take on our return journey the ranching country of Alberta, and Southern Manitoba, when I shall have an opportunity of personally visiting the crofter settlement. I will then take the opportunity of giving you my opinion as to their prospects.—I remain, yours &c.,

ALEX. FRASER.

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

JANUARY 3, 1894.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO MR ALEX. FRASER, BALLOCH.

Last night Mr Alexander Fraser, Balloch, one of the two Scottish delegates selected by the Dominion Government of Canada to report upon the agricultural resources of that extensive and important country, was entertained to dinner by his agricultural and other friends in Inverness and district. The dinner took place in the Royal Hotel. The chair was occupied by Mr Charles Innes, who was supported on the right by the guest of the evening, and Mr Williamson, banker, and on the left by ex-Bailie Stuart and Rev. Gavin Lang. The croupiers were Mr G. J. Campbell, solicitor, joint secretary of the Inverness Farmers' Society, and Mr Walker, Torbreck. There were also present — Ex-Bailie Macdonald; Mr J. H. Macdonald, Charleston; Mr James Howe, Castleheather; Mr Samuel Davidson, flesher, Union Street, Inverness; Mr Maclennan, Beechwood; Mr James Robertson; Mr Scott, of Messrs Hamilton & Company, Inverness; Mr Macbean, Cradlehall; Major Fergoson; Mr Brown, Mid Coul; Mr Colin Munro, Tullich; Mr Mackintosh, Balmoie of Leys; Dr Lang; Mr Neil Cameron, Church Street; Mr Fred Rose, solicitor; Mr Murray, of Messrs Murray & Watson; Mr Thomson, Kinmylies; Mr Hugh Mackintosh, ironmonger; Mr Paterson, Balrobert; Mr Simon Fraser, Millburn; Mr J. J. Mackay; Mr Birnie, Balnafetteck; Mr Gill, Balloan; Mr Macpherson, Balnagaick; Mr Hector Rose Mackenzie, solicitor; Mr Cameron, cashier, Church Street; Mr Paterson, Milton; Mr Andrew Fraser, Ashton; Mr Shaw, Slackbuie; and Mr Macbean, Essich.

After an excellent dinner, which was admirably purveyed by Mr Christie,

Mr Innes said he had received a letter of apology from ex-Bailie Mackenzie, who regretted that, owing to the state of his health, he was unable to be present to do honour to their guest.

Mr Innes then proposed the toasts of the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and other members of the Royal family, which were cordially acknowledged. Mr Innes next gave the toast of the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces, coupled with the name of Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Campbell, who replied.

Mr Innes then proposed the toast of the evening, the health of Mr Fraser—(applause). He said he was very highly pleased to be asked, as an old friend of their guest's father, to occupy the chair on that occasion. He had been associated with his father in connection with the Inverness Farmer's Society for over thirty years; he thought he (Mr Innes) first joined the Society in 1863. They were all much pleased when they heard of the selection of their friend, Mr Fraser, to the distinguished office of agricultural delegate to proceed to Canada, and it was only fitting and right that, upon his return, they should bid him heartily welcome after so prolonged a journey—(applause). He believed that, during his visit to the Dominion, Mr Fraser had travelled over a thousand miles across the prairies, through places where the roads were mere trails, and altogether he had travelled about fifteen thousand miles since he left Balloch and returned to Inverness. The selection of Mr Fraser as delegate must have been very gratifying to himself personally; and it was very creditable to the young farmers of the Inverness district, among whom Mr Fraser was so great a favourite, and occupied such a prominent position. When it was first mentioned to him that there was a chance of Mr Fraser being selected, he felt that he possessed all the practical agricultural knowledge which fitted him for the position to which he aspired; that he also possessed a very good power of observation; that he could not only speak very well, but that he had the capacity of putting upon paper what he had been observing—(applause). The report which Mr Fraser had to prepare upon his investigations into the agricultural resources of Canada had now been finished, and it had been transmitted to the Agent-General for the Dominion, Sir Charles Tupper. He trusted they would have an early opportunity of perusing the report. He had no doubt they would find in it matters which would prove not only interesting to them, but instructive to all agriculturists—young and middle-aged—who might contemplate leaving the old country and going across the Atlantic—(applause). After his own visit to Canada, he could say that one thing which had staggered him was that, notwithstanding the extraordinary goodness of the soil in Canada, and the fact that large holdings could be acquired to an extent of 160 acres, practically for £2, the payment of the dues of the deed, and also considering the great crops grown in the Dominion, still the people of this country, especially the poorer agriculturists, remained at home and neglected to take advantage of the great natural resources of the Dominion. They rarely saw people in the country districts in Canada who could be called poor. Any man who went across to Canada and made up his mind to be frugal, steady, and industrious was bound to succeed—(applause). He was always able to live better than at home; and it was his own fault if he was not better housed than his poorer countrymen on the western shores. He had no doubt the sending of delegates from the various districts of the country, who were able and respected, would ultimately draw greater attention to the Dominion. Year by year Canada was improving. People from other nationalities were pouring into the country, because they would find there representatives from almost every European nation. In the long run those people would become mixed up and assimilated, and in the future, he had no doubt, the Canadian nation would prove a great one. The country had not yet been half visited. There were millions of acres in Canada which had never been surveyed or actually seen. Mr Innes concluded by alluding to the number of young men in Canada whom he did not know by head mark; but who came up and spoke to him. This fact was a source of great satisfaction to him—(applause). He congratulated Mr Fraser upon his safe return to his home country. He trusted he enjoyed his trip, and that they would soon be able to read with pleasure his report to the Canadian Government—(applause).

Mr Fraser, who, on rising, was very heartily received, thanked those present for the enthusiastic and friendly manner in which they had drunk and responded to his health. At the same time he desired to thank those gentlemen present who had kindly assisted him four months ago, when he sent in his application to the Canadian Government to be sent over the country as the farmers' representative. He desired to express to them the great satisfaction he had experienced in his trip to Canada. After describing the Canadian boundaries and the population of the Dominion, Mr Fraser said it was decided that the members of the delegation should restrict themselves to the portion of the country which was not so well known, namely, Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Manitoba was only joined to the Dominion in 1871. It was, therefore, a comparatively new and unknown country. The area of Manitoba was 73,956 square miles; its population numbered 152,514. Until within the last few years the farmers of Manitoba had almost entirely devoted their attention to wheat raising. The soil was remarkably well adapted for the growth of

wheat. They would have observed in the London Market that Manitoba wheat, No. 1 hard, fetched the highest prices. As they knew to their cost the price of wheat had sunk to a considerable degree within the last couple of years; and it was now a question for those who had hitherto grown wheat to turn their attention to other matters. To a certain extent now mixed farming and cattle-raising was gone into in Manitoba. The average yield of wheat in Manitoba was about 24 bushels per acre, or three quarters; oats were very much higher in proportion—about sixty bushels; and barley about forty bushels. They travelled over and examined all Manitoba. From there they proceeded to the North-West Territories, where they saw a great extent of land. The soil in the greater part of Manitoba and the North-West consisted of a deep black loam—a soil which was very easily worked. As to the weather, they had a most delightful experience; it was a dry, clear, bright, and bracing atmosphere. They subsequently visited British Columbia. He could not speak much of its agriculture; but there was enormous wealth in its fisheries, woods, and mineral resources. On his return journey he visited the crofter settlement, which was situated about sixty miles to the south of the main Canadian Pacific line at Pelican Lake. It was the only crofter settlement he visited. He found the settlers living well and comfortable; but they had a considerable number of complaints. They appeared to him to have entered rather rashly into certain obligations, when they went out to Canada, and they seemed now to have some difficulty in meeting those obligations. Most of those he had spoken to were very well pleased with their prospects, and they would upon no account return to Scotland. They lived much better in Canada. They had more comfortable houses. One of the older settlers significantly remarked to him:—"We have plenty food to eat." During the time he was in Canada he met a great number of people hailing from the North of Scotland. He was safe in saying that he met four countrymen for every single countryman met by the other members of the delegation—(applause). Anybody emigrating to Canada would find themselves in the midst of friends—(applause). Every year the ocean communication was becoming cheaper and easier. This pointed to the fact, that the markets of Canada and their markets in Scotland must, in future years, come to be pretty much the same. At present, from any part of Manitoba, a fat bullock could be sent for £5 10s, and delivered in the Glasgow Market, and commission on the selling price paid. This question, therefore, affected them very closely. Cattle could be raised in Manitoba, and in any part of Canada, at a less cost than in this country. The price of feeding stuffs at present was considerably less than one half. The Dominion of Canada held out great inducements at present to Scotch farmers, particularly those who understood the breeding and feeding of cattle. There was no doubt a large margin of profit left to feeders of cattle just now in Canada. His report on the agricultural provinces of the country would shortly appear in print; he had gone into those matters there in detail, and any of them who were interested in the subject could read the report and see what he had said—(applause). There was another consideration in going to Canada. A man occupied his own land. All the improvements which he made upon the land belonged to himself. The land had increased rapidly in value in the past, and there was every prospect that it would increase in value more rapidly in the future. The United States, which had hitherto attracted a large amount of emigration, were now pretty well filled up, and it was now more than likely that the tide of emigration would turn towards Canada—(applause). Another inducement for an emigrant from this country to proceed to Canada was that he was always under their own British laws—(applause). Mr Fraser concluded by relating an amusing speech by a gentleman in British Columbia, showing how the Canadians took a great pride in their own particular districts. The delegates were being entertained, and in proposing the toast of the delegation, he wished to prove that sooner or later his district would be the finest in Canada. He began by remarking that civilization began in the Garden of Eden in Central Asia; it travelled westward to Greece and Rome, it gradually proceeded to the west until it had now arrived in Great Britain. It was still proceeding westward, and touched on the American shores, and before long he was quite sure his own location would be the hub of the universe, and the finest part of the whole of Canada—(laughter and applause).

Several other toasts followed. Mr Williamson, banker, gave the Agricultural Interests, and Mr J. H. Macdonald, Charleston, replied. Mr Walker, Torbreck, gave the toast of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Inverness, and Councillor Ferguson responded. Mr Innes proposed the toast of the Dominion of Canada, and gave several interesting details of his visit to the country.

Ex-Bailie Stuart, who was received with applause, said he felt highly honoured in being asked to respond to the toast of the Dominion of Canada. It gave him great pleasure to mark with what enthusiasm the toast was received. Canada desired above all things that her vast agricultural resources should be known and understood by the people in Scotland; and the Dominion owed a great deal to their Chairman, whose very able letters in the *Scotsman* and *Northern Chronicle* had added to their knowledge, and stimulated their enthusiasm in this new world—(applause). He could assure them that the articles he referred to were just as widely and as eagerly read in Canada as they were at home—(applause)—and, judging from the sample they had that night, and knowing their guest's power of observation, he anticipated that the publication of Mr Fraser's report would add another mortgage on Canadian gratitude—(applause). All over the Dominion a warm feeling existed in favour of Scotland and Scotchmen, and this was as it ought to be. The cradle of Canada had been rocked by Scotchmen. They had done more than any other race in shaping the destinies of the Dominion, and like a true child of a hardy mother, Canada was growing up strong in health and vigour; and though she was now able to look after herself, yet she preferred to walk hand in hand with her mother—(applause). Mr Fraser had referred to the gentleman who traced the progress of nations westwards. One of our own poets had sung "Westwards the course of Empire takes its way," and whatever might be the destiny of the great Dominion; whether the birth of this new world would ring the death knell of the old one, this was certain, that as long as bread would remain the staff of life, she will be the wheat granary for the whole of the rest of the world, and judging from the way that her foundations were laid, and how her bulwarks were built, she was destined to occupy a distinguished place amongst the nations of the world—(applause). Mr Thomson, Kinmylies, gave the toast of the Town and Trade of Inverness. Mr Samuel Davidson replied. Mr J. Howe, Castlebeather, proposed the health of the Chairman, which was pledged with Highland honours. Mr Innes replied. Rev. Gavin Lang gave the health of the Croupiers, which was cordially pledged. Mr Fred Rose, solicitor, proposed the Press, coupled with the name of Mr Macdonald, *Northern Chronicle*, who acknowledged.

A number of capital songs were given in course of the evening, which was throughout pleasant and enjoyable

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

MARCH 14, 1894.

THE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF CANADA.

MR FRASER, BALLOCH'S, REPORT.

We have to thank Sir Charles Tupper for an advance copy of a portion of the Reports of the Tenant Farmers' Delegation which visited Canada during the autumn of 1893. The portion sent us contains the Reports of the Scotch Delegates, Mr John Steven, Ayrshire, and Mr Alexander Fraser, Balloch, Inverness. As the latter looked at the agricultural prospects and potentialities of Canada from the Highland farmer's point of view, we shall, by weekly instalments, give it to our readers in its entirety. Subjoined in the first instalment :—

I had the honour of being appointed in August last a tenant-farmer delegate to visit and report on the agricultural resources of the Dominion of Canada. The delegation then appointed consisted in all of 11 members—two representing Scotland, viz.:—Mr Steven, Purroch Farm, Kilmarnock, for the south, and myself for the north; the other members represented England, Ireland, and Wales. I left Inverness on Tuesday, 15th August last, by the night train, and, joining Mr Steven in Glasgow, got on board the s.s. Parisian, of the Allan Line, which was timed to sail from Alexandra Dock, Liverpool, at noon on the 17th. We got under way shortly afterwards, and I was introduced to Sir John Thompson, Premier of the Dominion, and to Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada, both of whom were crossing with us; and to two of our fellow-delegates—Messrs Smith & Shelton. At Moville we were joined by Mr J. Guiry, Clonmel, who represented Ireland; and on Friday afternoon we got the parting sight of Ireland, lit up with brilliant sunshine, as we ploughed our way towards the great American continent.

The Voyage.

The Parisian is a vessel of 3262 tons register, having accommodation for 1134 passengers and 130 of a crew—in all, 1262. The captain, Mr Joseph Ritchie, was very agreeable and attentive to us during the trip; he is a native of the South of Scotland. We carried the following passengers and crew, viz.:—1st cabin, 201; 2nd cabin, 172; steerage, 288; crew, 150; all told, 811. About 120 of the steerage passengers were foreigners—I should say Germans, Dutch, &c.—and the remainder English and Irish, 30 of the latter joining us at Moville. A consignment of 10 pure-bred Border Leicester sheep, bought from the Duke of Buccleuch, and going to Mr Joseph Thomson, Salem, Goldstone, Wellington, Ontario, was taken out; also, a two-year-old Yorkshire coaching stallion, bought from George Barton, Esq., Selby, Yorkshire, and going to Mr B. Whale, Goldstone, Wellington, Ontario. At noon on the 23rd we sighted land, which proved to be the coast of Newfoundland—Belle Isle and Labrador; an hour after we were close up, and passed Belle Isle on the south side. Our first sight of the American shore was not very enticing. Belle Isle reminded me very much of Ailsa Craig, not in shape, but in geological construction. As far as I could make out with the assistance of a powerful glass, there was no living creature on the place, with the exception of the lighthouse keepers. Before and after passing through the straits, we encountered a great number of icebergs; one morning I counted over 20 from the deck at one time. They were very beautiful to look at, resembling white marble cut into all shapes and forms, representing castles, churches, towers, &c. I was of opinion that they were a source of considerable danger to navigators; but I am told that, unless in the case of fog, this is not so. They are plainly visible on the darkest night, on account of their clear whiteness.

On the 24th we were shown round the ship by Mr Hartnell, chief steward. We visited the steerage first, and saw the general arrangements, which agreeably surprised me. I had an idea that steerage passengers had to put up with a great amount of hardships on board ship, but this is not the case. Their quarters are kept perfectly clean, being washed out and the decks freshly sanded every morning; the cabins are well ventilated, and 18 cubic feet of space is allowed for every passenger. Of course, as a rule, they have more than this, but in no case less. Bed, tin cup and plate, knife, fork, and spoon can be hired from the company for the voyage for 3s 6d; and blankets, which could be used afterwards as plaids, and would be useful to emigrants, are supplied at 2s. We next visited the cooks' galleys, which were very complete; 12 cooks are employed, and apparently are kept very busy. All fresh provisions are preserved in ice, and keep well. The ship is victualled for 40 days in summer and 32 in winter, by order of the Government. The steerage is situated in the after part of the ship, and has accommodation for 948 passengers; the saloon in the centre, and the intermediate in the fore-part. The accommodation in the intermediate is very similar to the first cabin—quite as comfortable in every respect, only that there is a difference in style; all is plain, there being no decorations, &c. The rooms, as a rule, contain four berths, and all bedding is supplied. In my opinion, the passengers in this department get the best value in the ship. The difference in price between the steerage and intermediate is only £2 2s, and for this small additional sum you get everything supplied, have very much better food and accommodation, and a much nicer class of fellow-passengers. All who can possibly afford it would be wise in taking this class, and would find this to be especially the case if the weather proved to be in any way rough. The doctor visits the steerage regularly at 10 A.M. and 8 P.M., and can always be called in. There are two apartments on board set aside for hospitals—one for males, and the other for females—containing six beds in each. They are used in cases of contagious diseases, fever, &c. The ship's stores—such as preserved meat, eggs, butter, fruit, meal, wine, &c.—are kept underneath the intermediate cabin. The wine cellar is capable of containing 800 dozen of beer, and other liquor in proportion. Over 6000 lbs. of preserved beef is carried. After getting into the Gulf of St Lawrence, we had a concert in the intermediate cabin, and on the following night a concert and dance in the saloon, both of which were most enjoyable. The weather during the voyage was very good, and consequently everyone enjoyed themselves very much. We were within two hours of beating the record, and would have succeeded in doing this if we had not encountered a fog in the Gulf which detained us for a few hours. At 7.30 A.M. on the morning of Friday, the 25th, we were met by the tender at Rimouski, which took off the mail bags and a few passengers. The operation was carried out very expeditiously, only occupying about half an hour in all, and at 6 P.M. the same day we were moored alongside the wharf at Quebec. We arrived during a severe thunderstorm. I have never seen anything at home like the brilliancy of the lightning. It lasted up till about 9 P.M., and set a saw-mill on fire. The effect of the fire and thunderstorm combined was very imposing, and looked as if Nature had prepared a special illumination on the occasion of our arrival in Canada.

Quebec to Montreal.

We left Quebec at daylight on Saturday, and arrived at Montreal at about 1 30 P.M. The scenery on both sides of the river was very striking for the first half of the journey, resembling in many respects that of the Firth of Clyde. On the south side there are numerous villages and detached residences; but we were informed the country behind was not so thickly populated, all the people living near the shore, being principally engaged in fishing. On the north bank there are not nearly so many villages, and the country looked very bare and deserted: in Scotland it would be suitable for sheep or deer. All the land here is occupied by French Canadians. Just before reaching Quebec a view of the Montmorency Falls is obtained, on the north bank; they are higher than Niagara, but of very much less volume. It is from here that power is got for the supply of electricity to the city of Quebec. After leaving Quebec the scenery along the river banks was of a different description from the first part of the journey, the country being much flatter. We could not see very much of the agricultural aspect from the ship; the ground seemed to be divided into very small patches. In some parts the river was over a mile wide, in others it narrowed down to a few hundred yards. In some places the current runs very swiftly.

It was with a general feeling of regret that the passengers, who had passed the preceding week so pleasantly, said good-bye. During the passage, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper had several conversations with the delegates, both together and separately, and imparted to us very much useful and interesting information about Canada, and how we could accomplish the objects of our mission in the best and most expeditious way. Mr Thomas Mills, photographic artist and lanternist, Garth, Bangor, North Wales, gave an entertainment on board, showing his views of Canada, which we afterwards found to be very correct and representative. He accompanied one section of the Delegation, adding to his already copious supply of lantern slides many new and interesting views. Our portmanteaus and boxes were passed by the Custom House officers with very little difficulty, they in every case taking our word for what they contained. I may mention that on our return journey, at Liverpool, the examination was very much more strict.

Montreal.

As our mission was principally connected with the North-West, it was our desire to push on to Winnipeg with as little delay as possible; in consequence, we had very little time to spare seeing the large towns of Ontario. Indeed, it would be of small benefit in any case to describe, in a report of this nature, these cities very minutely, as that has been done so often already, and any person desirous of having that information can consult any of the numerous illustrated guides, which can be purchased for a few pence. One of the finest views of Montreal is to be had from the top of Mount Royal. We were drawn up by the cable tramway, the gradient being as steep as the roof of a house. On reaching the summit we had a magnificent view of the city, which lay spread out at our feet. In the foreground lay the town, with its numerous churches, cathedrals, and large public buildings; while in the distance the mighty St Lawrence formed the background, carrying on its bosom shipping bound for all parts of the world. The hill is well wooded with oak, birch, &c., and part of it forms a very picturesque cemetery. Winding paths intersect each other in all directions, and it affords a most pleasant picnic retreat for the inhabitants of the town, which they seem to take full advantage of. The temperature at this time was about 80 degrees in the shade; the heat is not very oppressive as long as one is outside. The nights are cool. I slept quite soundly, not feeling any too warm.

Ottawa.

At 9.55 A.M. on Monday we left for Ottawa, arriving there at 12.55 P.M. After lunch we went to the office of Mr A. M. Burgess, Deputy-Minister of the Interior, who, unfortunately, was not in. We saw Mr Hall, secretary to the department, and had a long conversation in relation to our future proceedings, finishing by making an appointment to meet Mr Burgess the next day at 10 A.M. Owing to the wet nature of the weather, we were unable to carry out a suggestion that had been made to visit the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, having to postpone it for another day. Instead, we saw through the Houses of Parliament, which are fitted up in a very elaborate style. A good view of the city is to be had from the clock tower.

Our Route.

After breakfast on the 29th, four of our number called on Mr Burgess, who received us very kindly, and briefly sketched a proposed route for our guidance in seeing the Great North-West. His idea was that we should at once proceed to Winnipeg, which would be our headquarters for a few days; from there we should proceed by parties of two and see as much of Southern Manitoba as possible, both east and west, visiting the crofter settlement at Killarney, near Pelican Lake. On returning to Winnipeg, the portion of Manitoba lying to the north of the Canadian Pacific Railway line would be examined in a similar manner, including an inspection of the crofter settlement at Saltcoats. Again joining the main line, we were to proceed west, branching off to Prince Albert and Edmonton, seeing as much of these places as our time would permit; then proceed across the Rockies to Vancouver, Victoria, &c. On our return journey we would take Niagara Falls, entering the province of Ontario at the south-west, and finishing at Ottawa. Mr Burgess then gave us an account of the system of Education in Canada, which is both efficient and complete. Primary education is free, and secondary education very cheap, the fees only amounting to $6 per quarter. There is a School of Practical Science at Toronto, and an Agricultural College at Guelph. Our interview lasted until nearly mid-day, when we returned to our hotel with Mr Fortier, a gentleman belonging to the Immigration Department, who was to take us to the experimental farm in the afternoon.

The Experimental Farm.

The Central Experimental Farm is situated about two miles from Ottawa, and extends to about 450 acres. Owing to the short time at our disposal, we were only able to see things in a very cursory manner; more than a day would be required to see the whole properly. The objects of the farm are to give information to farmers, free of cost, on the following subjects, viz.:—agriculture, horticulture, farm chemistry, entomology, botany, and the management of poultry. We first visited the chemical laboratory. Here all sorts of soils, grain, water, &c., sent in by farmers are analysed free of cost. We next saw the seed-testing establishment. Last year over 1900 samples of different kinds had been tested, and the results given to the farmers, showing the percentage of good plants,

weakly ones, and those that did not germinate. The process employed is that known as capillary attraction. After many experiments, this is found to answer best; it usually takes four days, but varies according to the state of the weather. A great many different varieties of grain are grown; indeed, I think almost every known variety of the different seeds have been tried. Those that have proved best suited to the climate are sent out, free of charge, to farmers in 3 lb. samples, along with a form of return which the farmer is asked to fill in and send back. This return gives information as to the dates of sowing, reaping, quantity, quality, &c. 2600 samples were sent out in this way to various farmers all over Canada. Six pair of work horses are kept, none of which are pure-bred. One pair were said to be nearly pure Clydesdales, but, in my opinion, would not be considered so at home, although very good, serviceable useful horses. These horses are not bred on the place, but bought in various parts of the Dominion, one team having only newly arrived from a horse ranch in Alberta. Cattle are well represented by all the principal breeds both of Britain and the Colonies. A good deal of time and money has been spent in getting them good and pure of their respective kinds, and the result is highly satisfactory. Pigs are a very good show, and here, as in the cattle section, each variety is represented. Tamworth, Berkshire, Large White Yorkshire, Poland China, &c., pigs thrive extraordinarily well here, the trouble being to keep them in low enough condition for breeding. So much loose grain lying about, and it being so cheap and plentiful, they seem to come in for more than their share. At this particular season of the year there is little doing in the dairy department; the object of the specialist in charge is to make experiments in cheese and butter making, with a view to letting farmers have the benefit of his experience. He showed us his method of testing the amount of butter fat per cent. contained in a sample of milk, which was a very pretty and interesting exhibition. Milk is now being largely bought by creameries according to the amount of butter fat it contains. Perhaps the most interesting sight on the farm was the poultry house. Mr Gilbert, the manager, is a native of Inverness, and came out to Canada in the year 1860. He thoroughly understands his business, and is a most enthusiastic poultry-breeder. The conditions which fowls are kept here are very different from the old country, as they cannot be allowed out of the houses during the winter, on account of the cold; in these circumstances it is necessary to keep them in a state as nearly resembling nature as possible by artificial means. Mr Gilbert's ingenuity has been greatly tested in this line, but he has proved equal to the occasion, and his various contrivances to keep his charge in a healthy condition are most interesting to see. Tobacco has been tried for the first time on the farm this year, and to all appearance was doing well. A farm of this description must be of very great advantage to the farmers of the Dominion, as they need not waste time or money in making costly experiments, but by simply reading the annual reports made by the heads of the various departments, and acting according to the advice given there, they are put in a position of taking the most out of their holdings.

To Winnipeg.

We left Ottawa on Wednesday, August 30th, at 1.15 A.M., per the Canadian Pacific Railway, for Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, which lies about 1300 miles to the west. The country through which the line passes is admirably described in their time tables, and is of a wild, beautiful character. With the exception of a very small proportion, it is of very little value from an agricultural point of view, but looks like a country containing mineral wealth. We reached Winnipeg on Friday morning at 5.30 A.M., thus accomplishing the distance—1300 miles—in 52 hours, being at the rate of 25 miles an hour. The cars on this line are beautifully fitted up, so that travellers can live on the train almost as comfortably as at home. Every morning a dining car is attached, on which meals of first-class quality can be had for 75 cents each. In addition, the train stops at roadside stations, for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, when, if preferred, a good substantial meal can be had for 25 cents or 1s.

The City and District.

We were met at Winnipeg by Mr George J. Cox, Inspector, Crown Lands Office, Winnipeg, who had been appointed to conduct the Delegation over Manitoba and the North-West. He is thoroughly acquainted with the country, and has an excellent reputation as a cicerone, which he has fully maintained on this occasion. Indeed, I may safely say it was owing to his knowledge of, and experience in travelling over, the land that we were mainly enabled to get over the vast amount of country which we traversed in the comparatively short time at our disposal. During the course of the day we had an interview with Mr H. H. Smith, Dominion Lands Commissioner, Winnipeg, at which our future movements were discussed. It was finally agreed that we should travel in two parties, and this arrangement was carried out; one section was composed of seven, and the other of six delegates. Winnipeg, formerly known as Fort Garry, has a population of 29,000, and stands at an altitude of 200 feet above sea level. In 1870 the site which the town now occupies was unbroken prairie, and the only buildings were the Hudson Bay Company's fort and a few Indian wigwams. During our stay here we visited Sir Donald Smith's farm, Silver Heights, lying about four miles out of town. Unfortunately, the handsome residence which he had here, and to which there is a special line of rails, was burnt down last year, and has not been rebuilt. Our party was accompanied by Mr James Fisher, representative of the county of Russell in the local Parliament, who pointed out and described the various places of interest on the way. The land on both sides of the road was occupied principally by market gardens, one of which we stopped at and examined, viz., Mr Chadwick's, Deer Lodge. We saw tomatoes, cucumbers, &c., grown in the open air. Off a small plot of about 10 yards square Mr Chadwick took 46 bushels of tomatoes, and from a similar plot of cucumbers had taken a barrel that morning. He mentioned that at the commencement of the season he got 10 cents each for the cucumbers, and at the time of our visit was receiving 50 cents a dozen. We saw the only herd of plain buffalo now in Canada on Sir Donald Smith's farm; they number four bulls, three cows, and two calves, and are now in a quite tame condition: we drove up quite close to them, and they took no notice. Two of the bulls are very fine specimens of their kind. It is a most extraordinary thing how these noble animals could be exterminated in such a vast country. Stories are told of their being simply killed by the thousand for the sake of the skin. Buffalo skins are now very rare, and cost about $90 apiece. It would be a very paying business if they could be raised for the sake of the hide alone; this, however, seems to be an impossibility.

THE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF CANADA.

MR FRASER, BALLOCH'S, REPORT.

PART III.

The Neepawa District.

We got on the train at Westbourne Station at 12.20 P.M., and, proceeding westward, reached Neepawa, a rising town of 1000 inhabitants, about 2 P.M. The country we passed through was principally adapted to cattle and sheep raising. In the afternoon we drove out, accompanied by Mr John A. Davidson, M.P.P. for this district. Our route lay to the north of the town, passing through an entirely wheat-growing country. Near the town the fields did not present so rich an appearance as those in the Portage district which we had recently seen: but as we got further away, and nearer a hill called Riding Mountain, the appearance of the crops improved. I called on Mr Donald Fraser, to whom I had a letter of introduction, but unfortunately he was not at home; however, he availed himself of my invitation to lunch at the hotel the following day, when he gave me much useful information regarding the country. On our way back to town we stopped at Mr David Munroe's—Location 16, 16, 15, 640 acres in extent. He is originally of Scotch descent, but his family have resided in the United States for a considerable number of years past. He had travelled over most of the United States, and farmed in different parts of it, but finally settled down here four years ago. He is very confident in his opinion that this is the best farming land he has yet come across. On landing here in 1889 his capital amounted to $235, and he now estimates that after paying all his debts he would have a balance of from $9000 to $11,000 clear.

It must always be borne in mind that the land is much easier worked here, being uniform in quality and free from stones. Mr Munroe is of opinion that mixed farming would suit this country well, and he intends going in for it as soon as possible. This, as already stated, is the general opinion of all the farmers I have spoken to. The stock on the farm consists of 15 head of cattle, 8 of which are cows, 8 working horses (including 1 Shire stallion and 2 pure-bred mares), 4 young horses, and 11 pigs. One hired man is employed on the farm all the year round, and two for eight months; in addition to which four boys of the family help, the eldest being 19 years of age, and the youngest 10. Hired men get $20 a month, are boarded in the house, and treated in all respects like one of the family. There is a natural hay meadow of 120 acres on the farm. Mr Munroe's farm is rather better than the average of the district.

The forenoon of next day—6th September—was spent in the vicinity of the town. We saw some grass fed cattle that were *en route* for the British market; they were hardly fat enough, and were inclined to be coarse; the heaviest of the lot was put on the steelyard, and weighed over 1900 lbs., live weight. While out, we met Mr Donald Fraser on his way to the hotel to lunch with us. Afterwards I got the following particulars from him:—Homestead, 15, 16, 10 Total average in farm, 800, of which 500 acres are under cultivation. He has been 11 years in this country, eight of which he has been engaged in agriculture. His capital on starting amounted to $150, and he now estimates it at $22,000.

At 2 P.M. we went for a drive to the south-west of the town, to visit a farm belonging to Mr John A. Davidson. The country presented very much the same features as in our drive of yesterday. Perhaps the crops were not quite so good. We were told, however, that this part is remarkably free from summer frosts. We passed through a strip of country here, 1½ miles broad by about 6 long, where the crops had been totally destroyed by a hailstorm. The fields had been apparently flattened to the ground, and were coming up in second growth. These storms are quite local, and there is no accounting for their action. They come down in strips, with long intervals between; the next place where any damage was done on this occasion being 20 miles eastward, at Gladstone. A Mutual Insurance has been got up by farmers against them, so that anyone so inclined can in this way get compensation. Mr Davidson's farm is situated on Section 31, 13, 15, W. It is his intention to go in for winter-feeding cattle and pigs. This is a new idea in this part, and he is going to give it a thorough trial.

Minnedosa.

At 8 A.M. on the 7th we left Neepawa, and drove in a westerly direction about 18 miles to Minnedosa, a town of considerable size, with many handsome stone, &c. buildings. It is situated on the Little Saskatchewan River, and looks very picturesque nestling in the valley and overlooked on three sides by the surrounding highlands. The country we passed through was, at the commencement, cultivated. As we got on it assumed a more rolling appearance, and less cultivation was gone in for. We encountered several large herds of cattle grazing on the natural grass. I was much struck with their sleek appearance and fine, glossy coats of hair; at home I would have at once said they were getting cake. The natural grass must be very nutritious here, though to look at it one would not think so, it looks so dried up. Further on the ground was wooded in clumps, between which you could occasionally see the wheat-fields and settlers' houses peeping out. This is a much more interesting country than the plains below, and, from the abundance of hay and water, it is much more suitable for mixed farming. The patches of wood and scrub would afford excellent shelter for stock, both from the hot sun in summer and the cold winds and snow in winter

Mr Fraser's Farm.

In the afternoon we drove out to the north of the town, and saw over Mr R. P. Fraser's farm—1. 16, 18. He holds 1500 acres, and has been in the country 12 years. This year he has been rather unfortunate, having met with considerable loss through hail, which he roughly estimates at about £600 sterling. This is his first experience in that direction, and hitherto he has been making money. More dependence is placed on mixed farming here, a great many of the farmers going in for cattle-raising. There are few sheep in the country just now, but there seems to be a general feeling that they would suit well. Mr Fraser sold 150 last year of various ages, realising on an average $7 a head. Owing to the severity of the winter, they have to be housed during the night, and are hand-fed with natural hay.

Sport.

The Mayor of Minnedosa, who accompanied us, proposed on our way home to have some shooting. He is a keen sportsman, having won the gold medal at Winnipeg last year as the champion shot of Manitoba, which means a good deal. The season for prairie chicken shooting does not commence until the 15th of September, so we had to confine ourselves to ducks. They abound here in all the marshes and small lakes. On arriving at a good slough, as they are termed in this country, the party, which consisted of three guns, placed themselves in good positions round the edge, hidden by the long reeds. A commencement was made by firing a shot to put up the ducks, after which they flew round the water in circles, giving each of us an opportunity of displaying his skill. Before darkness put an end to our enjoyment we had secured quite a good bag.

Mr Brown's Farm.

Next day we had a long drive round the country, accompanied by the Mayor and several of the leading citizens of the town, including a Mr Brown, who is engaged in the cattle trade with Britain; he owns a farm about nine miles from town, at which we put up and had lunch. The land in this vicinity is more hilly than anything we have yet seen in Manitoba, in some places resembling the Highlands of Scotland, only not nearly so wild. At Mr Brown's place they were busily engaged in threshing out wheat. I had the curiosity to time the operation, and discovered that they were putting it through at the rate of 3 bushels per minute.

Farms near Russell.

On Saturday, the 9th, at 2 30 P.M., we got on the train and joined other three delegates, viz., Mr Guiry, whom we had left behind; Mr Waddington, Derbyshire, and Mr Faulks, Rutland, both of whom had left England by a later steamer. With this addition our party numbered eight, and we continued together until we broke up on our way home. After leaving Minnedosa, proceeding westward, the line goes through a level country, slightly inclined to be marshy. This draws frost, so that this part is more suited to stock-raising. The train had to come to a standstill several times in order to remove cattle from the track; except in a few places the railway is not yet fenced. We reached Binscarth Station about 9 P.M., and drove to Russell, a town 12 miles to the north, which we reached about 11 P.M., rather tired. We spent two days in the neighbourhood of Russell, which is a country admirably adapted for dairy farming and stock-raising. Hay is plentiful, and all the stock we saw, which was not much, was in a very thriving condition. The appearance of the grass at this time of year is not very good, but the sleek appearance of the cattle shows it must be very nutritious. A number of grass-fed three-year-old cattle we saw were quite fat. We called on Mr Wm. Custar—6, 21, 28—farming 320 acres, 180 of which he has under cultivation. He settled here 10 years ago with very little capital, homesteading 160 acres, and pre-empting the adjoining quarter-section. He values his land now at $10 per acre, and considers himself worth about $6000. Dr Barnardo's Home for boys lies about four miles to the south-east of the town. The farm buildings, which are large and well arranged, are on Section 30, 30, 28, W. Dr Barnardo has got a grant from Government of 12 square miles of country, and yearly brings out from London from 70 to 100 boys; gives them a year's training on this farm, when they are supposed to be able to do for themselves. We were shown round by Mr Struthers, manager, and Mr Wm. Blyth, farm superintendent. The following stock is kept:—70 milk cows, 2 ordinary bulls, and 1 very fine pedigree Shorthorn bull, which was presented to the doctor by Lord Polwarth; 230 cattle, 150 sheep, 45 pigs, 24 horses and colts. 600 acres are under cultivation, 100 of which are under wheat; the other crops grown are rye, oats, and barley, with a few acres of turnips, and about 70 acres are summer-fallowed each year. There is a creamery in connection with the farm, which uses up all the surplus milk, in addition to large quantities received from surrounding farmers. The output of butter is 270 lbs. a-day in summer, and 56 in winter. A market is got for it in Victoria and on the Pacific Coast, at 24 cents per lb. at the creamery, with a weekly delivery. The quality of the butter is very good; the only fault is that it is too salt, probably in order to make it keep in the hot weather. The following prices are given to farmers for milk:—In April, May, June, and July, 60 cents per 10 gallons; August and September, 70 cents.; October and November, 80 cents; and 75 lbs. of skim-milk is returnable from every 100 sent in. During the winter the milk comes in frozen, and is paid for at the rate of 85 cents per 100 lbs. The turnips on the farm this year are not an average crop, as they were twice destroyed by the cut-worm, and what we saw was the result of the third sowing. They were only beginning to bulb, and would be not much bigger than oranges. This is the first year the cut-worm has appeared in the country.

Farms on the Carberry Plain.

On Wednesday, September 13th, we left Russell at 2.30 A.M. by rail for Carberry, *via* Neepawa. After a very tedious journey, the greater part of which we performed at the rate of 10 miles an hour, we reached the latter place at 2 P.M., and had lunch at our old hotel, starting immediately afterwards to drive across country to Carberry, a town on the Canadian Pacific Railway, 33 miles to the south. The land which we passed through on our drive was at first of a light sandy nature, until we struck the Carberry Plain, when we came into a grand wheat-growing country; miles and miles of wheat-fields extended on every side, all seemingly of equal quality. The Carberry Plain, originally known as the "Big Plain," is 70 miles long by 40 miles wide, and is very similar to the Portage Plain as to soil and methods of farming. We reached our destination at about 7 P.M., and were glad to avail ourselves of the comforts of an hotel after our fatiguing journey. Carberry (1000 population) is a busy little town, which has increased in population very rapidly in the past, and, from the number of new buildings in course of erection, is very likely to continue to do so in the future. It is a great grain-exporting centre, having handled last year no fewer than 1,500,000 bushels. Its five elevators are capable of storing 200,000 bushels, and its flour mill can turn out 250 barrels of flour per day. The surrounding plain—which, as already stated, is 2700 square miles in extent—contains some of the finest wheat farms in Manitoba. Mr H. W. White, ex-Mayor of the town, whose place we first visited, and who accompanied us during the remainder of the day, took first prize at the Winnipeg Exhibition last year for his wheat. The Dominion Government have since purchased from him 100 bushels, at $1 per bushel, for distribution at the Chicago Exhibition. Nearly all the farms visited presented a home-like appearance, much care having been bestowed on the gardens and general surroundings. As a rule, in the North-West, farm-houses give one the impression of having been dropped from the sky, and the fact of the grass being trampled down a little more in their immediate vicinity is the only external indication of the inhabitants. Mr George Hope—1, 11, 15—Carberry, has a place very much in contrast to this. He originally came from Roxburghshire, but has farmed in Ontario for 21 years, and has been on his present place for 15 years. His garden is a perfect treat to visit. He grows small fruit and vegetables, such as cabbage, onions, carrots, pumpkins, and beetroot, to perfection. Apples won't do in this part of Canada, the summer not being sufficiently long for them to come to maturity, and the trees generally get destroyed when three or four years old by frost. Mr Hope also informed me that he has tried on several occasions to grow melons, but has failed. We saw a number of young poplar trees raised from the seed this year. They stood fully a foot above ground. A number are planted round the house, with a pretty avenue leading up to it from the road, and the effect is very pleasing. I am of opinion that a good deal more of this sort of thing could be done, with advantage to the country, both affording shelter and pleasing the eye. The average yield of wheat here is from 20 to 25 bushels per acre, and the crops are not much interfered with by frosts or hail. Gophers are only a trouble in newly settled parts, when they come in from the open and cut up whole fields; any country which has been under cultivation for some time is not troubled much, as the settlers soon dispose of them by means of poison and trapping in the spring. I was told a story as to the habits of this curious little rodent, which I give here for what it is worth. They live in holes in the ground, and resemble our squirrel very much, only the tail is short, like a weasel's. During winter the frost penetrates into the ground to a depth of from 6 to 7 ft., and, as the gophers only go down half that distance, the result is that they are frozen in winter. My informant stated that he has taken them into the house quite stiff, and to all appearance dead, but on being put near the stove they have melted and apparently returned to life.

The next few places we called at, we were rather unfortunate in not finding the proprietors at home, but saw some good cattle; they have to be all housed in winter. As there is not much natural hay here, timothy meadows are laid down on nearly every farm, and present a very good appearance; the yield is from 1½ to 2 tons per acre. We had our lunch at Mr Adam Mackenzie's place; he unfortunately was away from home himself, so that we could only have a general look-round. Mr Mackenzie evidently does not approve of elaborate buildings, preferring the primitive style; his byres and stables being constructed principally of straw, supported by railings. I am told, when this covers up with snow in winter, that they keep the stock warm and comfortable. The housing of implements did not receive much attention, and considerable loss must result every year from the damage done to valuable articles, such as steam engines, binders, waggons, &c., from exposure to the elements. On the whole, I was much struck by the agricultural value of this district, and the prosperous condition of the people. Water is obtainable of very good quality at depths varying from 15 ft. at the town, to 40 ft. at the north end of the plain. Lumber costs $24 per 1,000 ft. A good team of horses, 1,400 lb. weight, about $300. A good man's wages, from $200 to $240 a year, and board; men as a rule are easily got. Soft coal cost $7 a ton; hard, $11. Land varies from $12 to $20 per acre, according to situation and quality. Sheep, which thrive well, are being introduced. Cross ewes just now cost from $6 to $6.50 a head.

Brandon and District.

After an hour's ride in the train we reached Brandon, on Thursday, 15th, in the evening. The next day the members of the Delegation inspected the Government Experimental Farm. It is situated about a mile from the town of Branden, on the north side of the Assiniboine River. As in the case of the farm at Ottawa, the situation has been carefully chosen with a view to testing the growth of all kinds of crop on various soils, and I think the Government have been particularly happy in their choice on this occasion. The ground is situated on the face of a hillside, and extends to the valley below, so that the soil varies from a deep loam of a clayey nature in the valley to drifting sand on the heights; the subsoil is chiefly marly loam, mixed with limestone. 620 acres have been set aside for the purposes of the farm, and already, after only four years' work, nearly half is in cultivation. We were shown round by the energetic manager, Mr S. A. Bedford, and first examined the buildings, which are very complete. Power for driving the machinery, for cutting, pulping, &c., is derived from a windmill. Pure-bred cattle of the various breeds, including Shorthorn, Holstein, Polled Galloway, and Ayrshire, are kept. The objects of the farm are similar to those already described in connection with Ottawa, particular attention being bestowed on grain, grasses, roots, and trees.

THE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF CANADA.

MR FRASER, BALLOCH'S, REPORT.

[CONCLUDING PART.]

We can only give an extract or two from Mr Fraser's account of British Columbia.

New Westminster.

This town, situated on the Fraser River, contains 8000 inhabitants. Its chief industry is in connection with salmon-canning and lumber. This year enormous numbers of fish have been taken, and prime salmon are selling just now retail at the rate of 10 cents for a 12-lb. fish. At 12 o'clock our party got on board the steam launch Minnie, and went down the stream as far as Ladner's Landing, so called after one of the original settlers. The distance, 12 miles, we accomplished in about 1½ hours. On our way down we could see that the river was simply teeming with fish, several jumping out of the water close beside the boat. I have never seen anything like the number of salmon in this river; they in some parts crush each other to death. At this point we were within a few miles of the American boundary, and, on proceeding for a short drive round the country, were several times within sight of American ground. The land is what we would call "carse" land, and has at some time been washed down by the river. It extends perfectly flat for many miles in all directions, and is only a few feet above high-water mark. I should say that drainage would be a difficult matter to contend with, owing to the lack of a proper fall. The principal crops grown are timothy hay, of which 3 tons are raised to the acre; oats, giving 60 to 70 bushels; and potatoes, average return being 12 tons. All sorts of roots and vegetables flourish extraordinarily well; turnips are said to give an average return of about 40 tons per acre, and some of the specimens seen by us were of enormous size. The land here, which is all owned by private individuals, can be bought at prices ranging from $50 to $100 per acre. Fruit trees of all sorts grow well, and give good crops where the ground is not too damp. The advantage of farming here is that a ready market is got for everything produced. All sorts of agricultural produce is imported into British Columbia, a good deal of which comes from the States, in consequence paying a heavy duty. This demand is bound to keep up, as the principal resources of the province lie in its fish, lumber, and mineral wealth; and the area of land suitable for agriculture, though of a rich nature, is comparatively limited, and confined to the bottom-lands and valleys of rivers. Back from the railway line there are many fertile valleys, but as yet the means of transport is very difficult and costly. However, the country is being opened up every year by means of Government roads and railways. Recently, the gold mines which are found all over the province are being developed by means of syndicates and limited liability companies. On our return to Vancouver, the Major, Mr F. Cope, took us to one of the two fire halls in the town, in order to test the efficiency of the fire brigade. The men were in bed, and 55 seconds after the alarm bell was rung the horses were ready yoked to proceed to the fire. In connection with the bell there are electric wires leading to the loose-box doors, and when the bell is struck the doors fly open, the horses—which were in excellent training—rushed forth and fell into their proper place under the harness, which is always suspended in readiness. By this time the men, who slid down a polished rod from above, clasped the collars, which fastened with a spring below, fixed the reins, which were furnished with spring hooks, mounted the box, and were ready to proceed. The horses are always kept with the bridles on.

Vancouver Island.

On Tuesday, 3rd October, we left Vancouver for Victoria, the capital of Vancouver Island, by the steamer Yosemite, at 3.30 P.M., and landed at Victoria (population, 20,000) about 10.30 P.M. The Island of Vancouver is very heavily timbered, principally with Douglas pine and cedar, and the surface is inclined to be uneven and in some places mountainous. Only a comparatively small proportion of the land is suitable for agriculture, and now most of what is clear of timber has been taken up. In consequence, settlers intending to take up land here would either have to buy, or clear off the timber. Owing to the fertility of the soil and the mild climate, land produces a good return of every crop sown; but, taking into consideration the heavy rainfall, cereal crops are not the best, in my opinion, to go in for. Fruit, hops, potatoes, and vegetables of all sorts do remarkably well, and a remunerative market can always be got for them. The first farm we stayed at was Braefoot, rented by Mr Henry King, whom we found busily engaged in harvesting his potatoes, assisted by Chinese labour. The farm extends to about 250 acres, of which 150 acres are cleared, and for this he pays a rent of $50 per month, and taxes which amount to $150 per annum. Potatoes give an average return of 4 tons, oats 50 bushels, and wheat 30 bushels, per acre; and the average prices are $20 per ton for potatoes, 45 cents per bushel for oats, and 90 cents for wheat. Wages for white men run to $30 per month, and board; and Chinese receive $1.10 per day, without board. Milk, delivered in town, fetches 30 cents per gallon; and cows yield about the same quantity as in Britain. Oil-cake costs $40 per ton, bran $24 per ton, and timothy hay mixed with clover $14 per ton. Butter sells for 40 cents per lb. From these figures it is at once apparent that dairying is much more profitable than grain-raising. All the farms we passed had orchards attached, and all the trees were heavily laden with fruit—peaches, plums, prunes, pears, and apples, all doing well.

British Columbia.

The advantages of settling in British Columbia are shortly summarised in—first, a good and ready market for everything raised on a farm; second, the probability that this market will last, because agricultural land is comparatively scarce, and the mining, fishing, and lumber resources, which necessarily employ a lot of people, are immense; and, third, the value of agricultural land is very likely to increase from its scarcity. In the interior large tracts are yet open for settlement at $1 an acre, and near the railways plenty of improved land can be got for from $30 to $100 per acre, according to quality. There is also a good opening just now for men with a little capital in the lumber, mining, and fishing industries. This can easily be understood when it is known that British Columbia, with an area of more than 380,000 square miles, contains only a white population of 96,000, that its forests of Douglas pine and cedar are practically inexhaustible, and that its fisheries are unsurpassed in the world.

Edmonton.

The original town of Edmonton stands on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River, and was an old station of the Hudson Bay Company. It is now a town of considerable size, being, like most rising towns in Canada, lighted by electric light. The railway terminus is on the south side of the river, about a mile from North Edmonton, and is becoming rapidly surrounded by a town. As it was so late before we arrived, we put up at the hotel on the south side. As yet there is no bridge across the river, so that communication has to be made by means of cable ferryboats. I was led to understand that before long it is the intention of the Government to have a bridge erected. Certainly it is very much required, as the present means of communication is both expensive and tedious. On the morning of the 13th we had a short drive to the west of the station, calling on one or two farmers, and arriving back at our hotel at about noon. The country passed through resembled in many respects Red Deer. Very little land in the neighbourhood of the town is now open for homesteading, most of it already being taken up, or held in the hands of speculators. The land is of good quality, and capable of giving heavy crops, the average return for barley being 40 bushels per acre; for oats, 60; and wheat, 35. In the afternoon we crossed the river, and attended the annual show of stock and agricultural produce. Unfortunately, we were too late to see the cattle, which had been removed before our arrival. We were, however, in time to see the roots, grain, needlework, and painting, &c. I thought a good deal of one or two samples of barley, which were excellent in colour, but deficient in weight, only making 52 lbs. per bushel. At the fair I met a good many Scotch people—among others, Mr Hugh Mackay, from Caithness, who came here 12 years ago with only $70 in his pocket, and is now comfortably situated on a farm. He speaks in terms of highest praise regarding the capabilities of this district.

The Crofters.

On Tuesday, 17th October, we left Edmonton for the crofter settlement at Killarney, Southern Manitoba. We went by rail *via* Calgary to Brandon, and from there drove across country to the town of Killarney—a distance of 62 miles—which we reached late on Thursday night. The drive from Brandon to Killarney was one of the longest we accomplished in a single day. We made a start about 8 A.M., passing through the towns of Rounthwaite, Methven, and lunched at Wawanesa, which we left at 3 P.M., reaching Killarney at 9 P.M. All the country we passed through was settled, and the farmers seem to devote their attention principally to wheat-raising As darkness set in when we were 18 miles from our destination, I could not judge the quality of the land near Killarney.

Killarney.

The following day we devoted to an inspection of the crofter settlement, on the shores of Pelican Lake. These crofters came out five years ago from Lewis, Ross-shire, under the Government scheme of colonisation, by which £120 was advanced to each, to be repaid in instalments—first instalment due in July, 1892. Thirty heads of families came out—18 from the Lewis, and 12 from Harris—and the settlement now numbers homesteads. We met Mr John Nicholson—25, 4, 17—on his way into town with a waggon-load of wheat, from whom we got the following particulars:—He has 150 acres broken (this year he had 65 acres in wheat, and 45 in oats), 4 horses, 4 cattle, and the usual implements. He had been engaged in fishing at home, and is quite satisfied with his change. The year 1889 was dry, and in consequence his crop was poor; in 1890 he had 900 bushels of wheat for sale, for which he got 70 cents per bushel. In 1891 his yield had increased to 1900 bushels of wheat, and 700 bushels oats; he received 56 cents per bushel for the wheat, but didn't sell any oats. The price of this season's crop of wheat just now is 45 cents per bushel. Mr Nicholson has not repaid any of the principal or interest on his Government loan, but expected that he would, with the help of Providence, soon to be able to do so. He has had to purchase improved implements, including binder, mower, &c., and had also to lay out money in stock. As interest at the rate of 10 per cent. and upwards is charged on past-due accounts, and as he has only to pay 4 per cent. on his Government loan, he explained that he saved money by paying off his accounts in preference to the Government loan. He would not care to return home, and is now well contented with his prospects.

We called on Mr John Macleod—23, 4, 17—who is a man well up in years. He left Stornoway in May, 1888; himself and his son now own 320 acres, 100 of which are in cultivation; this year's crop consists of 70 acres wheat, 17 acres oats, and 3 acres barley. Stock, 2 horses, 4 oxen, and 4 pigs, and poultry. The crop this year has been injured by hot wind in mid-summer, and is not nearly an average return. John Macleod, son of the above, values his place at $800, and is of opinion that at home he could do better than here. He is a cooper by trade, and is sorry he left home. During the course of the day we called on several other members of the settlement, and also interviewed a good few who were working at a threshing machine. The old men appeared contented, several significantly remarking that there is always an abundance of good food here. I was struck by the amount of expensive machinery which I saw lying round most of the homesteads. At one place I observed three self-binders, a mower, horse rake, buggy, waggon, &c., all exposed to the mercy of the elements. The land in most places is of fair quality, and I was afterwards told that at the time the Canadian Government settled them there it was worth $7 an acre. Not one whom we had interviewed had made any payment to Government, and I am afraid a good many have but little chance of doing so for some time. There seems to be a general feeling that Providence will step in and do something for them, and a lack of self-dependence. It was a curious circumstance that in my wanderings all over Canada I invariably found Scotchmen thriving, happy, and contented; that I used to meet, I should say, four of my own countrymen for every one met by other members of the Delegation; and that it was only on this solitary occasion that I heard any grumbling. Many other Scotchmen had come out from the Old Country in a poorer state than the crofters, and are now well off; they had only themselves to depend on and look to, and, in consequence, succeeded in attaining to the position they now occupy. I believe that this settlement is now in about its worst state; that the crofters are only becoming acquainted with the ways of the country; and that, if they hold on and manage to get rid of the incubus of debt which is now crushing them down, they will yet attain to positions of comparative wealth and comfort.

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

JANUARY 3, 1894.

HONOUR TO AN INVERNESSIAN IN CANADA.

In noting the election of Sir James Grant as member of the legislature for the Ottawa division of Canada, the Montreal *Daily Star* gives the following account of his career:—Sir James Grant, who has been elected M.P. for Ottawa by acclamation, was born in Inverness-shire on the 11th of August, 1830. Our subject comes of a distinguished and able family. His father was Dr James Grant of Edinburgh, and for many years a prominent surgeon in Glengarry, Ont.; and his paternal grandfather was the learned James Grant, author of "Essays on the Origin of Society," and "Thoughts on the Origin and Descent of the Gael." A little while after the publication of the latter work, the author was presented with a large silver vase bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by the Highland Society of Scotland to James Grant, Esq., of Corrimony, advocate, as a testimony of his treatise on 'The Origin and Descent of the Gael, 1819." This was a prize essay in which many of the most noted scholars in Scotland competed. The vase is in possession of Dr Grant in Ottawa. Sir James' correct appellation, he claims, is Chief Grant, as he is the present chief of the Grants of Corrimony. This statement will be found amplified in a new work recently published by Dr Fraser, of Edinburgh, and entitled "The Chiefs of Grant." Grant received his education in Arts at Queen's College, Kingston, and took his medical degree, 1854, at McGill, Montreal. Having obtained his diploma, he settled at Ottawa. He has been physician to Lord Monck, Lord Lisgar, Lord Dufferin, Lord Lorne, and Lord Lansdowne. Honours have fallen fast upon Sir James, but well have they been earned. He has been president of the Mechanics' Institute and the St. Andrew's Society of Ottawa; he has been president of the College of Surgeons of Ontario; was a member of the International Medical Congress held in Philadelphia in 1876, and was created one of its two vice-presidents in the department of surgery. As above stated, he is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and of the Geological Society of England. He is also consulting surgeon to the General Protestant Hospital and to the General Catholic Hospital, Ottawa. Sir James is likewise a member of the Royal Society of Canada; and is ex-president of the Dominion Medical Association and representative of University of Ottawa in the Medical Council of Ontario. To the literature of his profession Sir James Grant is a gentleman of distinguished repute. He has published, in British and Canadian periodicals, a large number of able, lucid, and comprehensive essays on medical and scientific subjects. In addition to his contributions of his own professed science, he is a geologist of high standing, and has made most valuable contributions to the literature of that important science. He is one of the sturdiest Conservatives in the Dominion. He sat for eight years in the Dominion Parliament for the county of Russell. Sir James Grant was one of the first who saw the need of a transcontinental railway, and was the gentleman who introduced the original Pacific Railway Bill. He likewise advocated the admission of the North-West Territories into the Dominion of Canada at a time when most men regarded the proposal with hostility. Sir James married on January 22, 1856, Maria, daughter of Edward Malloch, who sat for Carleton in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. It may be added that Sir James Grant is one of the twenty-five honorary members of the British Medical Association; an honorary vice-president of the International Medical Congress of the World, which will meet in Washington in September, and that recently he was made a corresponding member of the *Associazione de Benemeriti Italiani*, Palermo, Sicily, and was awarded the gold medal of the Association for high standing in medical science.

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

JULY 17, 1895.

THE HOTEL ORDINARIES.

CALEDONIAN HOTEL.

THE chair was taken by Mr R. B. Finlay, Q.C., who was supported by Provost Ross; Mr Barron, Ness Bank; Mr Wm. Mackay, solicitor; Dr Macnee; and Mr Cameron, Tullisker. The croupiers were Mr Anderson of Lochdhu; and Mr Mackay, Braemore. The others present included Macleod of Macleod; Colonel Alexander Macdonald, Portree; Mr Ferguson, Munkstadt; Mr Findlater, Inverness; Mr Brown, factor to the Earl of Moray; Mr Thomson, Highland Railway; Mr Stewart of Ensay; Mr John S. C. St Clair, Musselburgh; Mr M. C. Williams, Culmill; Mr Mackay, Inveran; Mr Robertson, Nairn, factor to the Earl of Cawdor; Mr Mackillican, Calcutta; Mr A. J. Lamb, solicitor, Nairn; Mr Scobie, Keoldale; Mr Clarke, yr., Meddat; Mr P. P. Sellar, Hartfield; Mr Cree, of Messrs Crawford, Cree, & Co.; Mr Keeble, Invesness; Mr Campbell-Orde, Lochgilphead; Major Kemble of Knock; Mr Kinnaird, Tormore; Mr Fraser, editor, *Toronto Mail*; Mr Boyd, Fort-William; Mr Tom Scott, Rhifail; Mr Miller, Balnakeil; Mr Scorah, Orkney; Mr Durran, Thurso; Mr Wedderspoon, Perth; Mr Rollo, Perth; Mr Innes, Keith; Mr D. M. Cameron, Inverness; Mr Davie, Glenspean; Mr W. Cameron, Nairn; Mr Maclean, Glen-Urquhart; Mr Mackillop, Islangie; Mr J. P. Mackay, Inverness; Mr George Macdonald, Thurso; Mr Wm. Purvis, Thurdistoft; Mr Mitchell, Ribhill; Mr Somerville, wool broker, Kilmarnock; Mr D. Munro, solicitor, Inverness; Mr Delavault, Inverness; Mr Gilbert, Ardverikie; Mr A. Macdonald, Balintore, Begroy; Baillie Munro, Inverness; Mr Wm. Brown, Runister; Mr Peter Gatherer, Greenock; Mr James Gatherer, do.; Provost Culbard, Elgin; Mr Lumsden, Navity; Mr Kyd, Aberdeen; Mr N. Reid, Glastullich; Mr Smith, Aberdeen; Mr Black, banker, Inverness; Mr Mitchell, Rattagan; Mr Macrae, Fernaig; Mr D. Logan, Auchtertyre; Mr David Scott, salesman, Inverness; Mr Smith, Mid Mills; Mr Birnie, Balnafettack; Mr C. M. Cameron, Balnakyle; Mr F. Grant, solicitor, Inverness; Mr Methven, Balmacara; Mr Colin M. F. Ross, Torboll; Mr Keith, Caryside, Caithness; Mr John D. Sutherland, Oban; Mr Allan E. Thom, yr. of Canna; Mr Daniel Duncan, Woodend, Rothesay; Mr Duncan Whyte, Glasgow; Mr Purves, Kingsburgh; Mr Mackenzie, factor, Nigg; Mr A. Cowan, Inverness; Mr Scott, Newton; Mr Macdonald of Balranald; Mr D. Cameron, banker, Tain; Mr Adam Scott, Northumberland; Mr James Scott, Seafield, Portmahomack; and others.

Mr Finlay, who was heartily cheered, said the first toast was there, as in every assembly of loyal subjects, the toast of Her Majesty the Queen—(cheers). In no part of Her Majesty's Dominions was the Queen more beloved and honoured than in the Highlands of Scotland—(cheers). Her reign had been long and glorious, and he was sure it was the ardent desire of every Scotchman, and of every subject throughout her vast Empire, that she might have many long and happy and glorious years to reign—(cheers). Her Majesty the Queen—(cheers).

Mr Finlay said that having drunk the toast of the Crown, it was only right and proper to drink to those gallant defenders of the Crown and our institutions—the Army and the Reserve Forces—(cheers). The military spirit was still strong in the Highlands, and they were all proud of their Highland regiments—(hear, hear) They rejoiced to know that the navy was maintaining its glorious traditions; that it was being further strengthened, and that their island home was likely to be saved from ever witnessing the horrors of actual war. They rejoice to know that if ever any invasion should unhappily be achieved, they had at home a band of gallant defenders—the volunteers—(cheers). Nowhere had the volunteer movement been taken up with greater keenness than in Inverness and throughout the Highlands, and he thought anyone might be well proud of their Highland volunteers and their Highland militia regiments—(cheers). It was with great gratification that he was able to couple with this toast the name of a distinguished Highlander—Macleod of Macleod—(cheers). They were all very proud and glad to see him there that day, and if he might be permitted to make the allusion, he thought he was very much better employed as he was today than in the way it was lately announced he might be employed—(laughter and cheers).

Macleod of Macleod, who was cordially received, said there was no place in the world where the toast they had just drunk should be received with greater enthusiasm than in the Capital of the Highlands—(cheers). They all knew that from time immemorial the Highlands of Scotland had produced a large number of men to all their forces—the navy and the army; and they had done their share of the duty of maintaining the Empire to a larger degree than any other portion of the Queen's dominions—(applause). He might in their say that the men which the Highlands did produce were the flower of the forces—(cheers). They were the finest men that served in any of the forces. He had the honour himself of serving in a Highland regiment for a period of fifteen years—(cheers). As to the Naval Reserve, he might say it was impossible to see a finer body of Naval Reserve anywhere than was to be seen in Harris in the Outer Hebrides—(cheers). He need not go further than the camp at Invergordon a short time ago to point out to them that there was assembled there a body of 3000 men, and he had been told—for he had not the opportunity of seeing them—that they were as fine a body of men as ever met together—(cheers). Their volunteers had distinguished themselves in many places; but he thought the Highland volunteers carried off the palm—(cheers). He would like to see a little more enthusiasm about enlisting into the army in the Highlands than they saw at present. In the old days they used to send a far greater number of men than they did at the present time, and he thought the army, as a profession, about the best for any steady young fellow—(cheers). The army was very much better taken care of now than it used to be. The comfort of the soldier was better attended to than in the old days. There were reading-rooms, recreation rooms, and workshops provided, tending to make life brighter and happier. Young fellows were smartened up, and a soldier returns home in the prime of life a much better citizen than when he joined the army—(cheers). He would like to see a little more desire among the young men in joining the army—(cheers). He remembered a few years ago the colonel of his regiment sent a recruiting party to Portree year after year. In the first year he only got two men. But still he continued to send the recruiting party there. He (the Macleod of Macleod) said to his colonel—"Why do you still send the recruiting party to Portree when you get so few men?" "Oh," he replied, "the men we do get are so much better than others, and I am going to try again"—(laughter and cheers). On behalf of the army, navy, and reserve forces, he begged to return his most sincere thanks for the very kind way in which the toast had been drunk—(cheers).

Mr Finlay then proposed the toast of the evening. He said—Gentlemen, I now rise to propose the toast of the

day, and that is prosperity to the Wool Market—(cheers). I think that if this large assembly to-day is an omen of success for the Wool Market, this Wool Market ought to be a very successful one, and I hope it will be successful in the sense of pleasing both sellers and buyers. I am aware that may not always happen; but I hope that this Wool Market, which has opened under such favourable circumstances, will be remembered with pleasure by all those who take part in it. It is a good many years now since this Wool Market became an institution in the North. I believe ever since the year 1817 the Wool Market has been well known and largely frequented here. I have been told that within the last few months we lost Mr Ross of Tarbol, who was one of those who attended at the first Wool Market held in Inverness; but I am glad to say, that, although we have not on this occasion among us any who were present at the very first Wool Market held, we have among us some friends who attended the Wool Market at very early days, and of these gentlemen I should like to recall to your memory that we have among us Lochdhu and Mr Scott, Newton—(cheers). I will not say much about Lochdhu, because if I began to tell his praises I should not stop within any reasonable limits—(cheers). We are all delighted to see him, and we are delighted to see that veteran supporter of the Wool Market, Mr Scott, Newton, here to day—(cheers). In the long history of the Wool Market I think there is one feature that most honourably distinguishes it, and that is the unbroken confidence that prevails between sellers and buyers—(cheers). As you all know, sheep are bought by description; they are bought on the credit of the description given by the seller, and after some lapse of time, they are conveyed away by the buyer. I believe, in the whole history of the wool market, there never has been any litigation on the question of whether the stock as delivered corresponded to the description by which they have been sold—(cheers). I think that is a very honourable thing. It is a great feature, and one of which any market might well boast. I am sure it speaks volumes for the sense of honour and good faith that always prevails and will always prevail in the Highlands of Scotland—(cheers). Gentlemen, with regard to the prospects of the present wool market, I, of course, feel that I have the honour of addressing an audience composed partly of those who wish to sell and partly of those who wish to buy; but I can say this, without offending the susceptibilities of anyone, that such a very excellent dinner as we had to-day conduces admirably to the discharge of business in such a way as to please both parties—(laughter and cheers). I may, perhaps, venture to go a step further, and say that there are prospects of a rise—(cheers). What that rise will be will be settled by what has been often called the higgling of the market. Perhaps it is a fortunate thing, as there is such a large attendance to-day, that, to suit business, the hour of dinner was moved back a little, so that we sat down at three o'clock instead of four, as used to be the practice. That will leave a little longer time for the transaction of business—(hear, hear). I need not say that it is after dinner business is much more likely to be done; and I trust that this Wool Market, which has opened so auspiciously, will be remembered as shewing the beginning of an era of reviving prosperity—(cheers). We are all aware—and painfully aware—that there has been a great deal of depression of late years. I trust better times are at hand; and I ask you to drink the toast of the day—a toast which needs no further words of mine to commend it to every one of you as a toast that should be drunk with the utmost enthusiasm—Prosperity to the Wool Market—(loud cheers).

Mr Thomas Scott, Rhifail, who replied to the toast, speaking in a humorous vein, said at one time of the year he thought there would be no Inverness market at all, the snow-falls, and especially the forsts of January and February were so severe. It was a hard struggle for good men to get through. They had many advisers in their line of business; for instance, a veteran statesman sometime ago advised them to cultivate strawberries; but he was afraid it would be rather difficult to grow that fruit on the hills of Sutherland and Skye—(laughter). Of course, they would all have heard of the smart school boy who was asked why Solomon was the wisest man; because, said the little fellow, he had seven hundred wives to advise him—(laughter). But he was disposed in sheep farming matters to stick to his own advice irrespective of of wives or statesmen—(applause). Certain people believed in hypnotism; one farmer, at least, did so, but after an experiment he came to the conclusion there was nothing in it. He went to his factor, caught and held his eye, and impressed upon him that he had paid his rent. You're a l——, said the factor—(laughter). Well, seriously speaking, sheep farmers had come through many struggles, and the last was undoubtedly the most severe. He hoped they would not have to face such a thing again—(applause).

Mr Anderson, Lochdhu, gave the toast of the sheep buyers, and said he never in any season saw sheep stock in such splendid condition—(applause). He was sure no buyer would make a mistake in taking them south; he would make a smart profit on them—(applause). He had now attended the wool fair, and the dinner, for upwards of fifty years, and he had no objection to do so for another fifty—(cheers).

Mr D. Duncan, Rothesay, who replied to the toast, observed that Lochdhu was an authority on the condition of the stock, and that he was glad to hear his favourable verdict upon the produce of this season. He hoped Lochdhu would be long spared to attend the Wool Fair—(applause). With regard to trade, he regretted there was no rise in the price of wool, nor even a prospect of it; but, of course, they must remember that the importation of Canadian sheep was now a ruling factor in the situation. Then, with regard to present conditions, they must observe that they have but half a hay crop, and that turnips were growing, but that was all that could be said about them—(laughter). The great thing was to get—and it was in prospect—a change of Government—(cheers).

At the close, Mr Finlay announced that in order to meet an engagement it was necessary for him to leave, but that Provost Ross had kindly agreed to take his place. As he left the room Mr Finlay was loudly cheered.

The other toasts were few and formal in character. Mr Scott, Newton, proposed the wool-buyers, to which Mr John Somerville, Kilmarnock, responded, and the health of the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

The company was the largest seen at this ordinary for some years, and Mr Sinclair catered in his usual efficient way.

THE CROFTER SETTLEMENTS IN CANADA.

A BLACK STATE OF MATTERS.

In a letter to the Secretary for Scotland, written from Winnipeg on the 5th inst., Mr Thomas Macnaught writes :—

Dear Sir, —I have now visited the Killarney crofters, and what I predicted in 1888 has, unfortunately, been too sadly realised. I anticipated failure, but not such a complete and ghastly failure. In 1888, 30 families were placed upon 32 homesteads, with a population of 293 human beings. Additional homesteads were taken up by younger members of the family until these numbered 54. Notwithstanding this increase of homesteads the population is only 160, as several of the homesteads are abandoned. In 1888, when these settlers were practically "dumped down" on the prairie, they were hampered with a debt of $18,000 and very little to show for it, and that little mainly consisted of lumber, oxen, and agricultural implements.

To-day the debt due the Colonisation Board and the Dominion Government is over $35,000. Beyond a payment of $470 no instalment nor interest has been paid. How the crofters were to subsist until the land produced was a problem which the Government thought unnecessary to solve. On their arrival the season was too far advanced for any producable cultivation, and next season had to pass before crops could be reaped, and thus the crofters were practically without the means of subsistence for two years. The means of subsistence had to be got from the storekeepers, who readily gave credit to the proteges of the Imperial Government. Their debt to shopkeepers and traders will exceed $35,000, and is daily increasing through interest and expenses. If all the assets were realised, lands, implements cattle, &c., the amount would not be $35,000, quite insufficient to pay the debt of the Colonisation Board. The homesteads, as you are aware, have been sold for taxes and redeemed back by the Colonisation Board, and this year the homesteads were again advertised for sale for non-payment of taxes, and to prevent the sale the taxes were paid by the Imperial Government or the Colonisation Board. The mortgages held by the Colonisation Board are now in process of being foreclosed, but that will be of little benefit to the Government or the crofters. The probabilities are that the creditors will then remove the implements and stock and the crofters will be left destitute of the means of cultivation. The crofters can be removed, and the land let on lease, but sufficient rent could not be got to pay the interest on the Government debt.

The only stock the crofters really possess are about five oxen, a few pigs, and some poultry. All the other stock is held under mortgage or under lien notes, and liable to be removed by the owners or creditors at any time. Their machinery and implements are in a somewhat similar condition. Most of those provided by the Colonisation Board have been seized and removed for debt. The crofters have been sadly victimised. Any settlers can get unlimited credit, and the trader has complete security under the lien notes and mortgages on chattels. Machinery was forced upon them for which they had little or no use at the time. If the instalments were not regularly met, then judgment was got against the crofter, the machinery also seized under the lien notes and removed. Should be also unfortunately have granted a mortgage on other chattels, these were also seized and realised at enormous expense quite out of proportion to the debt. Then another trader would repeat the same process. The machines and implements have often been removed when the crofters needed them most. The creditors in many cases have got back the articles, but, Hebrew-like, they wished the fulfilment of their bargain and payment of the interest, which in many instances is at 24 per cent. per annum. Against nearly every crofter there are judgments and executions, and seizures of their crops take place yearly. Unfortunately the crofters have never attempted to plead any defence against those Shylock contracts, and what has surprised me is that the Government of the Province of Manitoba has not enacted legislation to give protection to the settlers against these usurious contracts. The only interest that has been manifested in them has been when their vote became useful, but it has vanished now. Most of the store accounts are for necessary supplies, but here there are also judgments and renewal notes, interest being charged at 12 per cent. on the renewals, which, if they be at four months' currency, means 36 per cent. per annum. There is no insolvency law in the province by which they could surrender their effects to their creditors and then make a fresh start, and a private settlement with the creditors would be nigh impossible. Should any settlement of these debts be attempted, neither interest nor expenses should be recognised, nor should any regard be paid to any claim for implements or machinery unless they are in the possession of the crofter.

This state of matters cannot continue long, crofters sowing and reaping that others may gather where they have not strewn, and already demoralising effects are resulting. It is more than human blood and flesh can bear to see the fruits of their labour seized and sold, and the debt never becoming less. When some of the crofters told me the rate of interest they were paying and the expenses they were being charged I thought they were exaggerating, but when I examined the records, interviewed the officers who showed me the executions, I found there was no exaggeration. One or two notorious instances will suffice. A claim now is $1000, and if the creditor receives $250 he is amply paid. Another debt was $85.00, but after crediting several payments the balance is $140. My surprise is that the crofters should have endured so long and laboured so well. But they have fought on, expecting that relief would be found with bountiful harvests or that the Government would aid them. How the Government is to aid them I do not very well know, excepting bringing them home. Before they were taken from home they might be in penury, but they could live and pay their way. They were the bone and sinew of our country and formed part of the first line of defence, as the majority of them are naval reserve men, which explains how the Government got hold of them for this foolish scheme of colonisation. There is plenty of land now scheduled in the deer forests for migration purposes, and the Government could not do better than inaugurate that scheme by atoning for the grievous mistakes they have made and bring the crofters home and settle them on a part of these scheduled lands, where they will do well after the sad experiences they have had. They are among the most industrious of the settlers here, but they have not had a chance. It is admitted by all who are capable of forming a judgment, and who have had opportunities of forming that judgment by personal contact, that they would have done well if they had had a chance. They were brought out fishermen and sailors to be Canadian farmers, hampered with wives and families, encumbered with debt, no means for subsistence. Emigrants as a rule are State aided, free or assisted passage, a bonus often on settlement, accustomed to the tillage of the soil, and unencumbered with debt. The usual privileges given to other emigrants were denied to the crofters.

The settlement is sure to break up; it is only a question of time, and if it had not been for the wives and families there would have been more deserted homesteads to-day. The Government is in duty bound to look after its proteges, whom they brought out under mistaken circumstances and that can best be accomplished by taking them home, where they could then pass through the Insolvency Court with little expense and make a fresh start, and their services would be again at the call of the country in the first line of defence. I shall write you again about the Saltcoats Settlement after I have made some investigations. It is also a complete failure. In 1889 49 families, numbering 282 human beings, were settled on 72 homesteads. Now there are only 22 homesteads and 90 human beings. The settlement is practically broken up, and not a single penny of the advance has been paid back. The manner in which the Saltcoats Settlement was carried through does not reflect credit on the man entrusted with the arrangements. I shall explain this more fully when I have ampler information.

NORTHERN CHRONICLE

JULY 19, 1899.

THE DISCOVERER OF THE KLONDIKE REGION.

In the July number of the "Scottish Geographical Magazine," the historian of British Columbia, Mr Alexander Begg, C.C., has an article on early explorations in North-West Canada. He writes:—

"The first record obtainable pertaining to the Yukon country is from 1834, when it was under the management of Mr Robert Campbell, a native of Glenlyon, Scotland. He joined the Hudson Bay Company in 1832, and two years afterwards was placed in charge of the Mackenzie district, with headquarters at Fort Simpson, which is situated at the confluence of the Liard river with the Mackenzie, in about lat. 52 deg. and long. 122 deg. Before the year 1838 Mr Campbell had established several trading-posts on Liard river, and had reached Dease lake, the western head-waters of the Liard. He established a trading-post there, and with a few of his men crossed the 'divide' or height of land between Dease lake and Stikine river, intending to proceed to the coast at Wrangel. On his way he was met by a large party of coast Indians and captured, but with his men escaped and retreated towards Dease lake. In their flight they destroyed an Indian bridge over the Tahltan to prevent pursuit. Shortly after the coast Indians joined the Dease Lake Indians, attacked the trading-post, pillaged it, and drove Mr Campbell and his men out of their country. Mr Campbell then apparently shaped his course northwards along the Liard, for in 1840 we find trace of him at Lake Frances, the northern source of the Liard, where he established a trading-post. He next proceeded westward across the height of land to Lake Finlayson, which he discovered and named. In two days' further travel he reached a large river, which he named Pelly. Returning to Fort Frances in 1843, Mr Campbell again crossed the height of land to Pelly river, which he followed until he reached its confluence with another larger river flowing from the south, which he named Lewes. The junction of those two rivers form the main branch of the Yukon river. Mr Campbell was the first white man to stand on that spot. He continued his explorations down the river for about seven hundred miles to the confluence of the Porcupine river with the Yukon. At this junction, about lat. 56.50 deg. and long. 145 deg., Fort Yukon was established. Mr G. Bell, of the Hudson Bay Company, in 1846 proved that establishment to be about 150 miles west of the 141st meridian, or the boundary line between British and Russian territory; but no Russians or any traces of their occupancy were seen. From Fort Yukon Mr Campbell ascended Porcupine river to its eastern source, and crossed the height of land to Peel river, a small tributary of the Mackenzie, not far from its outlet in the Arctic Ocean. From the outlet of Peel river he ascended the Mackenzie to Fort Simpson, his headquarters, at the mouth of the Liard. Again, in 1848, Mr Campbell crossed to the Pelly, and descended that river to Fort Selkirk, which he named, and established a trading-post there. That fort was pillaged by the Chilcat Indians in 1851. After the pillage Mr Campbell returned to Fort Frances. During 1852-3 Mr Campbell made a remarkable journey east. He left White river, near the Alaskan boundary, on September 6th, ascended the Pelly to one of its sources, and crossed the mountains to a branch of the Liard, which he followed to Fort Simpson, arriving there October 21st. Winter having set in, he started on snow-shoes to make a journey to Crow Wing on the Mississippi river, extending over sixteen degrees of latitude. He had with him three men and a train of dogs. The dogs were changed at the Hudson Bay Company's trading-posts along the route. The route from Fort Simpson lay by Great Slave Lake, Lake Athabasca, Ile a la Crasse, Carlton House, Fort Pelly, Fort Garry (Winnipeg), and Pembina. On March 13th Mr Campbell reached Crow Wing, where he obtained horses for the journey to Chicago. From Chicago he continued his journey eastward, and arrived at Montreal on the 1st of April. Such was his despatch that he was enabled to report himself in London, at the Hudson Bay House, on the 13th of April, 1853. From his starting-point on the Pelly-Yukon he had made a continuous journey of 9700 miles, nearly half of which was through an uninhabited wilderness; and of this distance some three thousand miles were passed over

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